

Alligator Weed (কুকুৰাঠেণ্ডীয়া) — an uncultivated yet widely used aquatic plant in rural Assam, known for enhancing milk in livestock and serving as both fodder and leafy vegetable. It remains a key part of traditional food and farming systems.



A protein-rich aquatic plant (30-40% dry weight) used as feed for fish like Grass Carp and Tilapia. It improves water quality and oxygen levels. Regular harvesting keeps it in check.

Water Spinach (কলমৌ শাক) - a nutrientrich aquatic green loved in Northeast Indian cuisine, valued for its medicinal uses, water-purifying ability, and as natural feed for herbivorous fish like Grass Carp

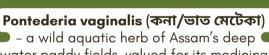




Black Taro (ক'লা কচু) thriving by the water's edge—a wild, iron-rich delicacy rooted in Assam's wetlands and kitchens

White Taro (বগা কচু)
A wild Colocasia with
pale stems, used in
traditional dishes and
pig feed. Similar to
Black Taro. Larger
cultivated types, called
Tapio, include Maan,

Bhog, and Nol Kosu.



water paddy fields, valued for its medicinal properties, livestock fodder, and as a leafy green in traditional dishes. Even its flowers find a place in local recipes, reflecting its deep roots in rural food culture.













HANDY GUIDE

AQUATIC PLANTS AND WEEDS IN ASSAM: INDIGENOUS RESOURCES FOR LIVESTOCK & FISH

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This leaflet highlights how indigenous communities in Assam turn aquatic weeds and uncultivated plants into valuable resources. These "weeds" support nutrition, biodiversity, livestock feed, and natural farming showcasing a sustainable, low-input approach rooted in traditional wisdom.



IN A GLANCE

Assam's wetlands.

- Taro (Colocasia esculenta)
- Water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)
- Pontederia vaginalis (Monochoria vaginalis)
- **Greater Duckweed** (Spirodela polyrhiza)
- Water Spinach / Morning Glory (Ipomoea aquatica)
- **Alligator Weed** (Alternanthera philoxeroides)

Our heartfelt gratitude to the MISING COMMUNITY MEMBERS for generously sharing their indigenous knowledge with us.



Elytrigia Repens (শেৰালি ঘাহ)

- it is a perennial grass commonly found in marshes/wetland area or lowland. It tolerates water logging and several as a green fodder for cattle.

YOU CALL IT A WEED— VILLAGERS SEE ITS VALUE.

WEED AS
FEED AND FODDER!!

Uncultivated plants blur the line between weed and resource. What may seem useless to some is a treasure to others. These floating and submerged greens are widely used for fish and livestock feed, compost, and even traditional herbal remedies.



Hymenachne Amplexicaulis (দলঘাহ) — a flood-tolerant wetland grass, key fodder for cattle during floods and grown alongside deep water paddy like Bau Dhan.

Assam's wetlands host rich aquatic plants, herbs, and weeds. Indigenous communities use age-old knowledge to turn these into valuable resources for nutrition, biodiversity, and livestock care. Their low-input practices align closely with Natural Farming principles.