



# MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY, INC. PLANT REFERENCE CHART

## CURLYLEAF PONDWEED

(*Potamogeton crispus*)

This undesirable exotic, also known as Crisp Pondweed, bears a waxy cuticle on its upper leaves making them stiff and somewhat brittle. The leaves have been described as resembling lasagna noodles, but upon close inspection a row of "teeth" can be seen to line the margins. Growing in dense mats near the water's surface, it outcompetes native plants for sun and space very early in spring. By midsummer, massive natural die-offs can dramatically lower oxygen levels triggering fish kills.



## LARGELEAF PONDWEED

(*Potamogeton amplifolius*)

Thick, large stems and broad leaves aid in identification of Largeleaf pondweed. The submerged leaves appear wavy and taper toward the stem. Floating leaves are egg shaped. Rarely is this pondweed found branching.



## EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

An aggressive plant, this exotic milfoil can grow nearly 10 feet in length forming dense mats at the water's surface. Growing in muck, sand, or rock, it has become a nuisance plant in many lakes and ponds by quickly outcompeting native species. Identifying features include a pattern of 4 leaves whorled around a hollow stem. Feathery in appearance, each leaf consists of 10-21 pairs of closely packed leaflets. Out of the water the leaves become limp, compressing against the stem.

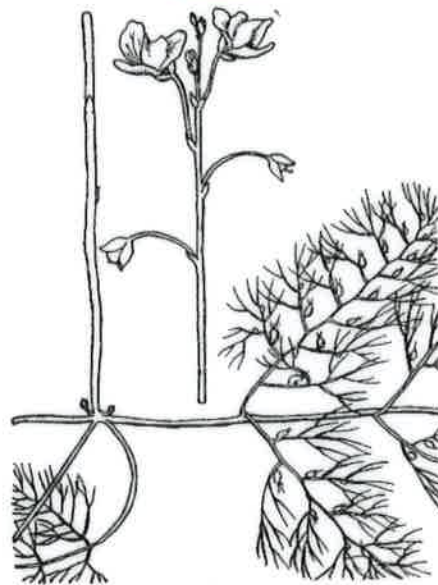


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## BLADDERWORT

(*Utricularia spp.*)

This plant is free floating and does not utilize a standard root system. There are finely divided leaves scattered along the stem with many small structures that look like bladders attached to the leaves. These bladders act as traps to capture small aquatic invertebrates. Due to this plant not being rooted, floating plants may re-infest treated areas.



## NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL

(*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)

This native species of milfoil has a hollow stem with whorled leaves at intervals along the entire length of the plant. Leaves are finely dissected to the mid-rib and featherlike in appearance. This entire plant is submerged with the exception of a tiny stalk of flowers that may extend above the water surface. This plant can easily be confused with and hybridize with the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil.



## BULRUSH

(*Scirpus spp.*)

This plant has a long, tall triangular or round stem that may or may not contain leaves. This plant has a cluster of brownish flowers and seeds located at the end of the stem. This plant will generally be found along the shoreline or in shallow waters.

## AMERICAN PONDWEED

(*Potamogeton americanus*)

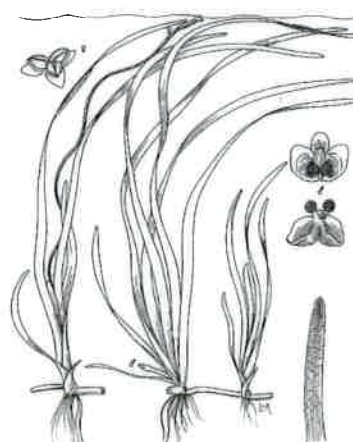
Floating leaves are oval and the base tapers to a distinct petiole. The submerged leaves of this plant are often lance-like, and also taper to a long petiole. This plant generally has sparse leafing that is arranged alternately.



## WILD CELERY

(*Vallisneria americana*)

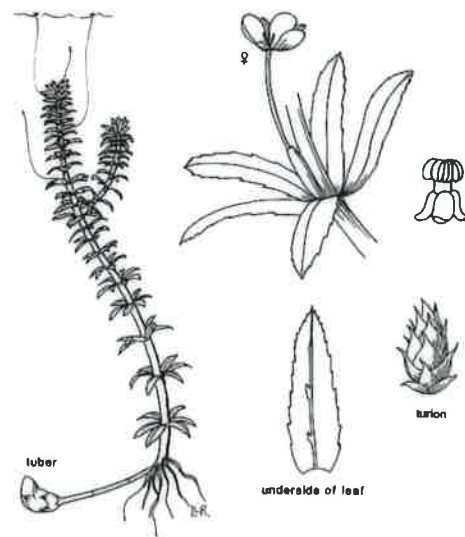
Also known commonly as Eelgrass or Tapegrass, this submersed plant can form thick beds and dominate an area. The grass like leaves have a distinctive pattern used to identify the plant. Flaccid when out of the water, the foliage occurs in tufts, much like turf grass. Soft muck bottoms are its preferred substrate.



## HYDRILLA

(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

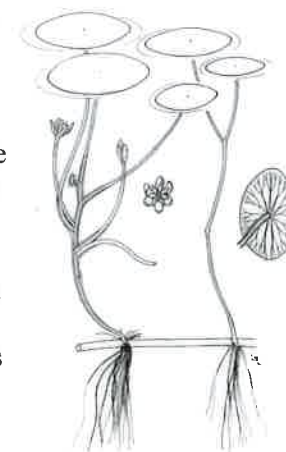
This extremely invasive submersed plant contains oppositely arranged leaves with whorls of 3 to 8 leaves. The leaf has distinctive toothed margins, with pointed spines on the underside mid-rib. It is easily confused with native elodea, which has 3 leaves per whorl and lacking evident toothed leaf margins. Reproduces through turion formation and fragmentation. In 2006 Hydrilla was confirmed in the Midwest (Indiana).



## WATERSHIELD

(*Brasenia schreberi*)

Also known commonly as Dollar Bonnet. This plant's leaves are oval to elliptical with a smooth edge. The stem (petiole) is attached to the middle of the leaf. Leaves are 2-5 inches in length. Mature plants will have a slimy, gelatinous coating on the leaf underside. Produces a dull purple flower in late summer, grows from roots.



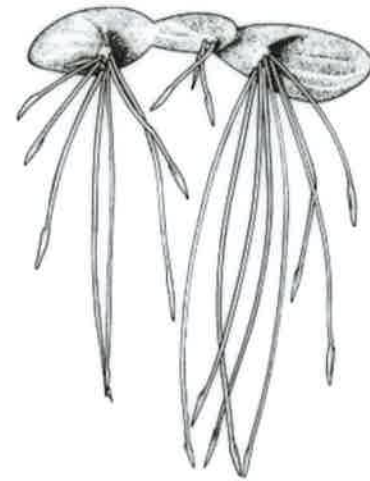




### ELODEA

(*Elodea canadensis*)

This submersed weed with broad oval leaves at first glance appears very similar to Hydrilla, however this plant usually contains its leaves in whorls of 3 around the stem. Whorls are compact near the growth tip with spacing between the whorls gradually increasing as you go down the stem. This plants leaves have smooth edges and lack the spine on the underside of the leaf that Hydrilla has.



### DUCKWEED

(*Lemnaceae spp.*)

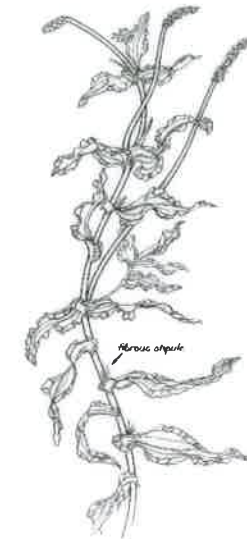
Duckweeds are members of the family containing the world's smallest flowering plants. They are generally a very small floating green plant, usually smaller than your smallest fingernail. Often mistaken for algae, this plant floats on the surface of the water and reproduces very rapidly. This plant may or may not have a 'root' extending from the underside, but the plant is not rooted to the soil.



### ARROWHEAD

(*Sagittaria spp.*)

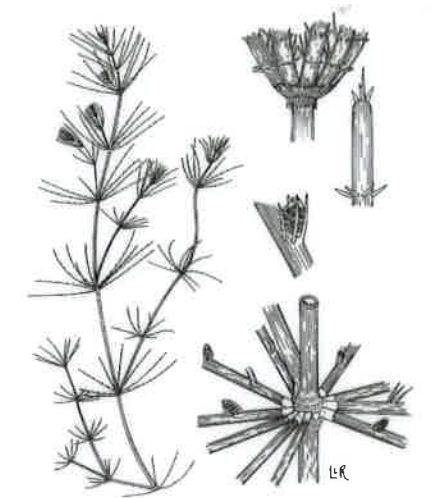
This plant is named for its arrow shaped leaf. This emergent plant may also have some elliptical emergent leaves and sometimes will also have ribbon, or tongue-like submersed leaves. This plant has underground rootstocks with tubers and may have tiny white flowers sometimes present.



### CLASPIINGLEAF PONDWEED

(*Potamogeton richardsonii*)

Appearing extremely leafy at the tip due to frequent branching, Claspingleaf can be easily confused with Curlyleaf Pondweed. Both bear wavy, submerged leaves, however Curlyleaf Pondweed's leaves are serrated along the edges. Claspingleaf has leaves with smooth edges and a wide base that wraps around the stem almost completely.



### Chara

(*Chara*)

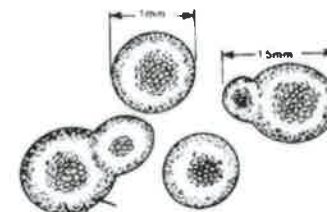
Chara is typically found growing in clear, hard water. Lacking *true* stems and leaves, Chara is actually a form of algae. It's stems are hollow with leaf-like structures in a whorled pattern. It may be found growing with tiny, orange fruiting bodies on the branches called akinetes. Thick masses of Chara can form in some areas. Often confused with Coontail or Milfoils, it can be identified by a gritty texture and musky odor when crushed between the fingers. The gritty texture is caused by calcium deposits on the surface of the stems and branches.



### COONTAIL

(*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

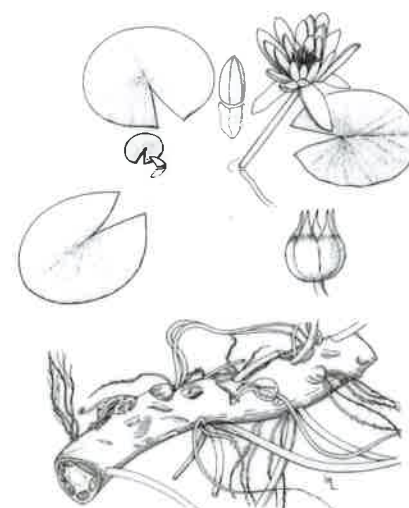
Supporting waterfowl, fish, and insects, Coontail can be a desirable aquatic plant. However, thick growths around shore can be problematic. Lacking true roots, it commonly floats near the surface later in summer. Stiff leaves are whorled around a hollow stem in groups of five to twelve. Coontail can be differentiated from milfoils by forked, not feathery leaves. Leaf spacing is highly variable, but the ends are often bushy, like a raccoons tail.



### WATERMEAL

(*Wolffia spp.*)

This plant is extremely small, no larger than a pin head. It shows no visible roots and looks like green cornmeal or grits. The smallest of the flowering plants, it is usually very abundant when present. It is also often mistaken for seeds floating on the surface. This species is generally very difficult to control, and often coexists with duckweed.



### WATER LILY

(*Nymphaea spp.*)

Large round pad with a cleft running almost to mid-vein. Leaves are usually 6-8 inches in diameter and the leaf veins radiate outward from the petiole. The underside of the leaf is a purplish red color and the flower is white with many rows of petals. This plant has a thick, fleshy rhizome network buried in the mud



### SOUTHERN NAIAD

(*Najas guadalupensis*)

Closely resembling Slender Naiads, Southern Naiads tend to be leafier with reddish brown stems. Leaves appear spiny along the margins. Sheaths at the base leaves surround the stem and may conceal seeds.



### COMMON NAIAD

(*Najas flexilis*)

Leaves of the Common Naiad may occur in pseudo-whorls or oppositely positioned pairs (whorls tend to occur at the end of the stems). The ribbonlike leaves are submersed with variable spacing between nodes. The edges may or may not appear spiny and the leaf tips taper to a fine point. Naiads are annual plants, growing from seed each year, and can form dense, bushy masses by midsummer.