



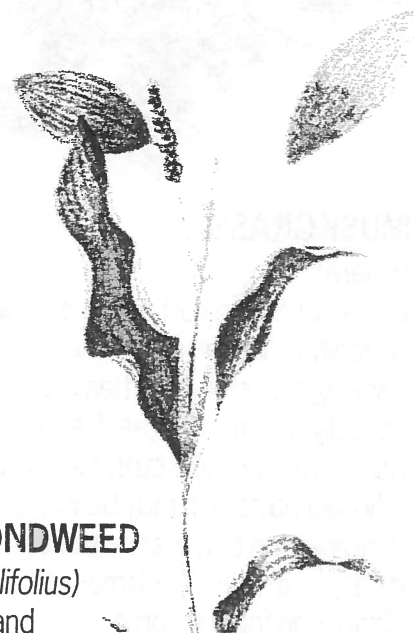
PLANT REFERENCE CHART



CURLYLEAF PONDWEED

(Potamogeton crispus)

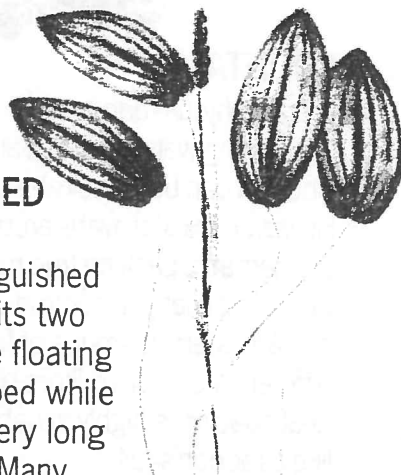
This undesirable exotic, also known as Crisp pondweed, bears a waxy cuticle on its upper leaves making them stiff and somewhat brittle. The leaves have been described as resembling lasagna noodles, but upon close inspection a row of "teeth" can be seen to line the margins. Growing in dense mats near 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.



FLOATINGLEAF PONDWEED

(Potamogeton natans)

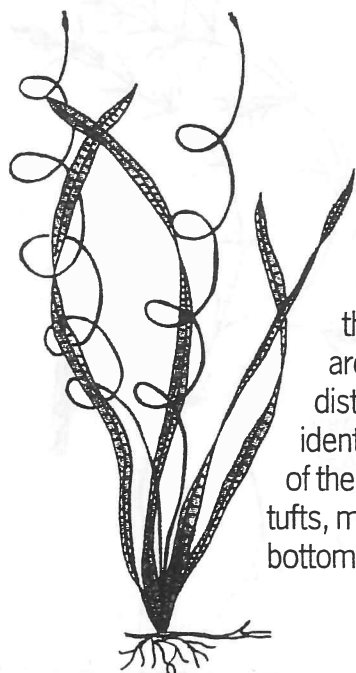
This pondweed can be distinguished from others by the shape of its two different types of leaves. The floating leaves are slightly heart shaped while leaves below the water are very long and narrow, if present at all. Many species of fish use this plant for cover in slow moving streams, lakes and ponds.



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.



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 vein 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.



CLASPIINGLEAF PONDWEED

(Potamogeton richardsonii)

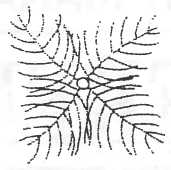
Appearing extremely leafy at the tip due to frequent branching, Claspingleaf can be easily confused with Curlyleaf pondweed. Both bear wavy, submerged leaves, but Curlyleaf pondweed's leaves are serrated along the edges. Claspingleaf has leaves with smooth edges and a wide base that wraps around the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



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

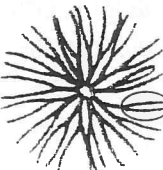
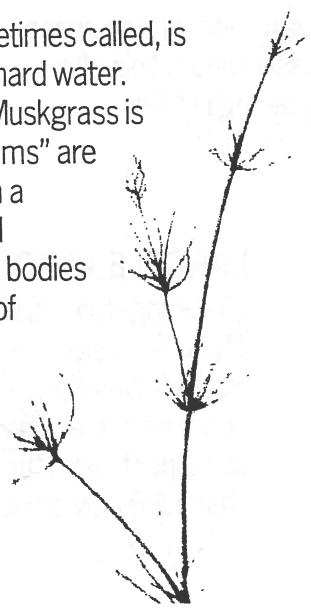
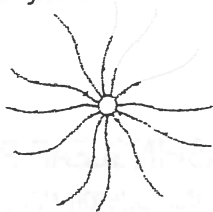
An aggressive plant, this exotic milfoil can grow nearly 10 feet in length forming dense mats at the waters surface. Known to grow in muck, sand or rock, it has become a nuisance plant in many lakes and ponds. Identifying features include a pattern of 4 leaves whorled around a hollow stem. Feathery in appearance, each leaf consists of 10 to 21 pairs of closely packed leaflets (see cross section). Out of the water the leaves become limp, compressing against the stem.



MUSKGRASS

(*Chara*)

Chara, or Stonewort as it is sometimes called, is typically found growing in clear, hard water. Lacking true stems and leaves, Muskgrass 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. 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.



COONTAIL

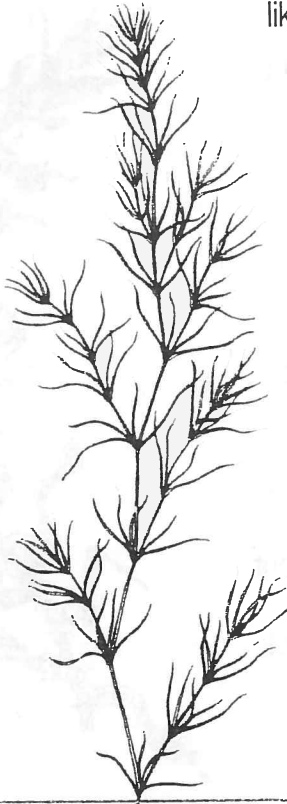
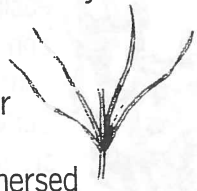
(*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

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 racoon's tail.

COMMON NAIAD

(*Najas flexilis*)

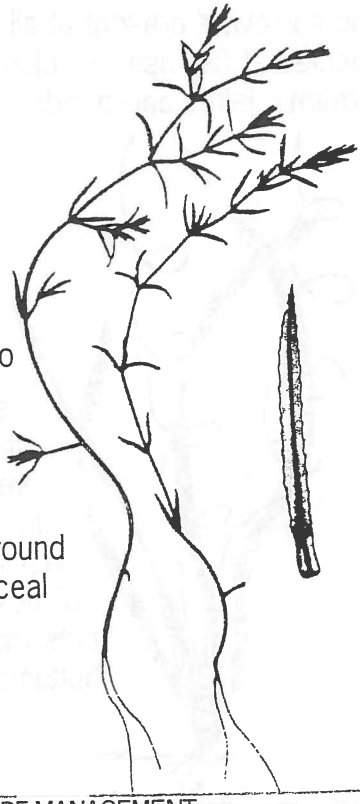
Leaves of the Common Naiad may occur in pseudo-whorls or oppositely positioned pairs (whorls tend to occur at the end of stems). The ribbonlike leaves are submersed with variable spacing between nodes. The edges may or may not appear spiny and the leaf tips taper to a fine point. Naiads are annual plants,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



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 of leaves surround the stem and may conceal seeds.



ALL AQUATIC PLANTS, NATIVE OR EXOTIC, CAN REACH NUISANCE LEVELS AND REQUIRE MANAGEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY P.O. BOX 100, SFYMOUR, INDIANA 47274