



Photo from Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation





AMERICAN EELGRASS

Vallisneria americana

Habitat Preference

Can tolerate sun to part shade. Grows in mucky soil in water less than about seven feet deep on edges of lakes and ponds. Found in marshes and slow-moving rivers and streams. Fragments often wash ashore in clumps.

Characteristics



Vegetative

Linear flat submersed leaf less than one inch wide and several feet long.

Flowers

Female flowers are held by a long, coiled stalk which uncoils to lift the flower to the water surface. Male flowers are tiny and produced in a capsule hidden among the leaves at the base of the plant.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Provides food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, fish, and muskrats.
- Helps play a role in *biogeochemical* (3) processing.
- Stabilizes sediment.

