



Photo from Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation



BIG-LEAVED PONDWEED

Potamogeton amplifolius

Habitat Preference

Grows in slow-moving streams, rivers, lakes, and farm ponds. Often found in soft sediments in deeper water up to several meters deep.

Characteristics



Vegetative

Submersed, spirally arranged, alternate leaves that are reddish and made up of one segment. Leaves wide in the middle, ruffled and tapered at both ends. Some floating leaves.

Flowers

Greenish, four-petaled flowers emerge from the surface of the water. Reddish-brown *achene* (7) when mature.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Large nutlets make a valuable waterfowl food.
- Decomposition by bacteria and fungi creates *detritus* (7), food for many aquatic invertebrates.
- Provides habitat for many *micro- and macro-invertebrates* (9,10)

