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# COMMON WATERWEED

*Elodea canadensis*

## Habitat Preference

Shallow lakes, ponds, pools, ditches, and streams with slow moving water. Tends to prefer loamy soil and slow-moving water with high nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations.

## Characteristics



### **Vegetative**

Small, submersed leaves made up of one segment. Leaves occur in whorls of three at stem *nodes* (12) and crowd at the top.

### **Flowers**

White flower with three petals; dry fruit splits open when ripe. Cylindrical capsules contain many seeds.

## Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Highly abundant in Lake Champlain, provides food for waterfowl, beavers, and muskrats.
- Often overwinters as an evergreen plant—*photosynthesis* (15) continues at a reduced rate under ice, making it good habitat and food during the winter.
- Provides habitat for *micro- and macro- invertebrates* (9, 10) as well as cover for young fish and amphibians (particularly in the winter when less shelter is available).



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