



Photo by Eileen Fitzgerald © Lake Champlain Committee





COMMON ARROWHEAD

Sagittaria latifolia

Habitat Preference

Submerged shallow water or out of water on wet muddy banks; native to swamps, marshes and margins of streams and lakes.

Characteristics



Vegetative

Linear blade leaf, *sagittate* (20) leaf shape, no true stem, circular *basal* (2) leaf arrangement.

Flower

Three-petaled white flowers in whorls of three.

Fruit

Dry, usually one-seeded, does not separate or split open at maturity. One seed within the fruit.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- The *tuber* (24) and inner seeds of the arrowhead are food for people as well as waterfowl and muskrats.
- Capable of filtering bacteria and reducing pesticide concentrations; used in *phytoremediation* (16).
- *Turbidity* (24) and wave energy are reduced by adequately stocked and healthy stands.

