



Photo by Eileen Fitzgerald © Lake Champlain Committee





COMMON DUCKWEED

Lemna minor

Habitat Preference

Found on the surface of quiet waters of lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, swales, and slow-moving streams. Requires water high in nutrients.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Single, oval-shaped leaves one to eight millimeters long, arranged as one to four leaves atop a small threadlike root.

Reproductive

Rarely produces flowers; usually reproduces asexually through budding from their *turions* (26).

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Important food source for aquatic waterfowl and fish.
- Research indicates duckweed can be used to synthesize insulin and other valuable proteins.
- Commonly used in *phytoremediation* (16) of water.
- Surface clusters of duckweed provide shade for some fish and other invertebrates. Dense clusters of duckweed can prevent excessive mosquito breeding.

