



Photo from Wikimedia Commons





FLOATING-LEAF PONDWEED

Potamogeton natans

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

Oblong floating leaves and submersed blades, both alternately arranged. Leaf attaches to stalk and looks pinched. Leaf shape varies based on speed of current, with more elongation in swifter moving waters.

Flowers

Green-red *inflorescence* (8) with four *sepals* (21). Small dry fruit with one seed.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Fruit provides valuable grazing opportunities for ducks and geese.
- Oxygenates lakes and ponds.
- Provides habitat for many *micro- and macro-invertebrates* (9, 10).

