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# LITTLE FLOATING-HEART

*Nymphoides cordata*

## Habitat Preference

Found in freshwater ponds and lakes, as well as in slow-moving rivers and streams.

## Characteristics



### **Vegetative**

Heart to oval shaped floating leaves, three to seven centimeters with reddish-purple tinge, alternate arrangement - one leaf per *node* (12).

### **Flowers**

Five petals per flower, white petals with yellow center; fruit splits open when ripe, exposing flattened seed with tiny hairs which allow it to float or cling to animal fur.

## Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Submerged portions provide habitat for many *micro- and macro- invertebrates* (9, 10). These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g., amphibians, reptiles, and ducks).
- Decomposition by bacteria and fungi creates *detritus* (7), food for many aquatic invertebrates.



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