





PICKERELWEED

Pontederia cordata

Habitat Preference

Unconsolidated sediments of streams, lakes, and ponds.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Simple, heart-shaped leaves 60-220 millimeters long. Arranged alternately at the base. Petioles extend from the submersed base above the water.

Flower

6-petals, violet to blue colored. Have *tristyly*, a breeding system that produces three distinct types of flowers on different plants.

Fruit

Dry, flattened fruit round at the cross-section; 4-6 millimeters long, 2-3 millimeters wide; one seed within the fruit.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Insects seek nectar from the flowering pickerelweed, while waterfowl feed on seeds and muskrats, deer, and other mammals feast on foliage.
- Root base of the plant covers sediments with a tough vegetative mat which can affect chemical release.
- The pickerelweed's stems and leaves act as a buffer to protect and stabilize the lakeshore. While there is no direct tie to its namesake fish the pickerel, fish and small birds and mammals use the foliage of the pickerelweed for covered shelter.



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UNDER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT LC09A007070 TO NEWPCC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.

**Scan to learn more about
native aquatic plants in
Lake Champlain!**

