



Aquatic Plant Guide



Algae

Common Name: Filamentous Algae

Scientific Name: *none*



Wildlife Benefits: **NONE.** Caused by excess phosphorus availability due to improper lawn care practices.

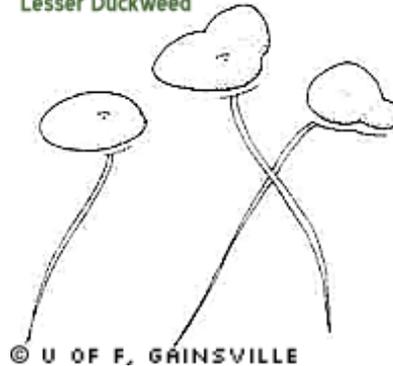
Floating-leaf Plants

Common Name: Duckweed

Scientific Name: *Lemna sp.*



Lesser Duckweed



Wildlife Benefits: Eaten heavily by some, less by others including: Blackduck,

Common Name: Floating Water Smartweed

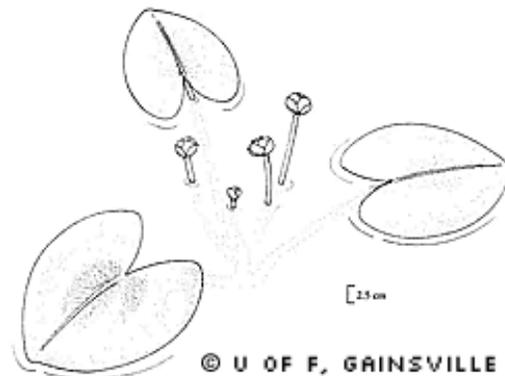
Scientific Name: *Polygonum amphibium*



Wildlife Benefits: Great food source for waterfowl and song-birds. Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Green-winged Teal, Canada Geese, Trumpeter Swan. Redwing Blackbird, Cardinal, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Junco. Cover for Fish.

Common Name: Spatterdock

Scientific Name: *Nuphar variegatum*

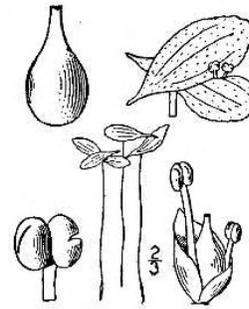


Wildlife Benefits: Seeds eaten by: Black Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Ringneck, Ruddy, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Shoveller, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Wood Duck; Marsh birds including: Bittern, Heron, King Rail, Sora Rail, and Virginia Rail. Mammals such as: beaver, deer, and muskrat eat leaves.

Floating-leaf Plants

Common Name: Star Duckweed

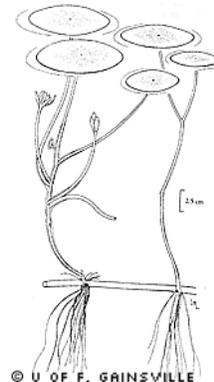
Scientific Name: *Lemna trisulca*



Wildlife Benefits: Often important food for wildfowl.

Common Name: Watershield

Scientific Name: *Brasenia schreberi*

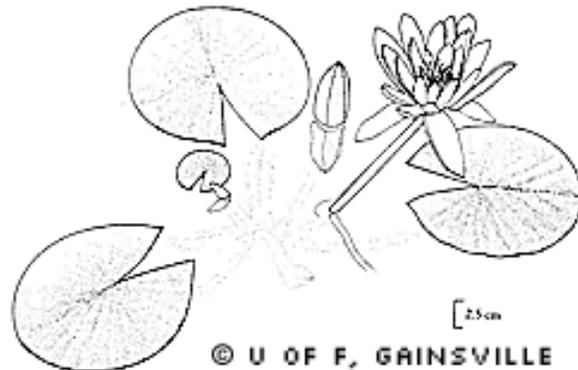


Wildlife

Benefits: Eaten heavily by some, less by others including: Blackduck, Mallard,

Common Name: White Water Lily

Scientific Name: *Nymphaea sp.*



Wildlife Benefits: Wildfowl feed on seeds including: Gadwall, Black Duck, Mallard, Pintail, Ringneck, and Scaup.

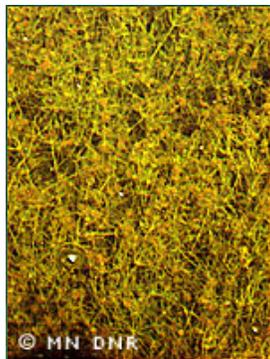
Submerged Plants

Common Name: Buttercup
Scientific Name: *Ranunculus sp.*



Wildlife Benefits: Eaten heavily by some, less by others including: Blackduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Redhead, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, pheasant, and bea-

Common Name: Chara/Muskgrass
Scientific Name: *Chara sp.*



Wildlife Benefits: Often important for wildfowl including: Coot, Black Duck, Bluebills, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, American Goldeneye, Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Ringneck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Widgeon, and Wood Duck Sometimes may grow too luxuriantly.

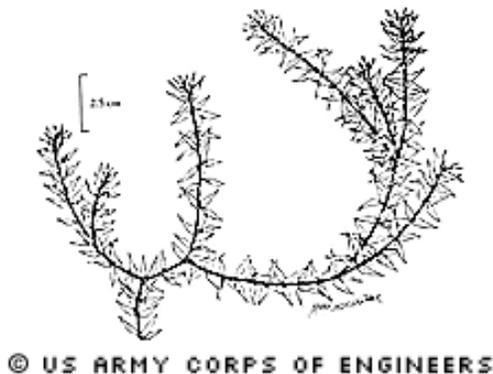
Common Name: Coontail
Scientific Name: *Ceratophyllum demersum*



Wildlife Benefits: Seeds and foliage important food for wildfowl including: Black Duck, Bluebills, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Redhead, Ringneck, Ruddy, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Scoters, Blue and Green-winged Teals, Widgeon, and Wood Duck.

Submerged Plants

Common Name: Elodea
Scientific Name: *Elodea canadensis*



Common Name: Naiads
Scientific Name: *Najas sp.*



Wildlife Benefits: Seeds and foliage important food for wildfowl including: Black Duck, Bluebills, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Redhead, Ring-neck, Ruddy, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Sctoes, Blue and Green-winged Teals, Widgeon, and Wood Duck.

Common Name: Northern Watermilfoil
Scientific Name: *Myriophyllum spicatum*



Wildlife Benefits: Many wildfowl eat fruits including: Black Duck, Canvasback, Gadwall, Golden ye, Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Ringtail, Shoveller, Wood Duck, and Green-winged Teal. Sparingly eaten by muskrats.

Submerged Plants

Common Name: Nitella

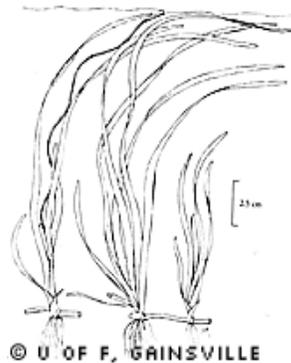
Scientific Name: *Nitella* sp.



Wildlife Benefits: Often important for wildfowl including: Coot, Black Duck, Blue-bills, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, American Goldeneye, Mallard, Pintail, Red-head, Ringneck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Widgeon, and Wood Duck. Sometimes, may grow too luxuriantly.

Common Name: Water Celery

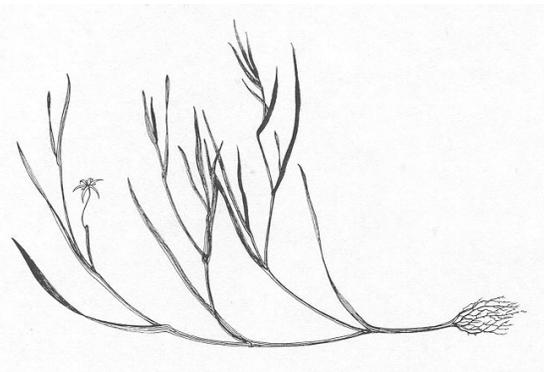
Scientific Name: *Vallisneria americana*



Wildlife Benefits: Excellent food for wildfowl including: Coot, Black Duck, Bluebill, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, American Goldeneye, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Old Squaw, Pintail, Redhead, Ringneck, Ruddy, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Widgeon, and Wood Duck. Attracts marsh birds such as: Canada Goose, Grebes, Whistling Swan, King Rail, Sora Rail, and Virginia Rail. Attracts shore birds including: Plover, Sandpiper, and Wilson's Snipe. Harbors minute animals and muskrat.

Common Name: Water Stargrass

Scientific Name: *Heteranthera dubia*



Wildlife Benefits: Locally attractive to some wildfowl such as: Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck.

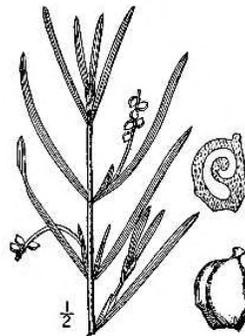
Submerged Plants

Common Name: Claspingleaf Pondweed
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton Richardsonii*



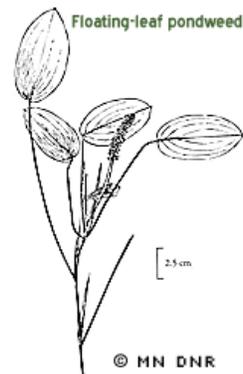
Wildlife Benefits: Sometimes important food for Black Duck, Canvasback, Red-head, Ringneck, and Green-winged Teal.

Common Name: Flatstem Pondweed
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton zosteriformis*



Wildlife Benefits: Sometimes food for Green-winged Teal.

Common Name: Floating-Leaf Pondweed
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton natans*

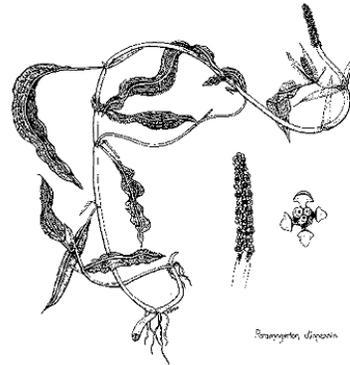
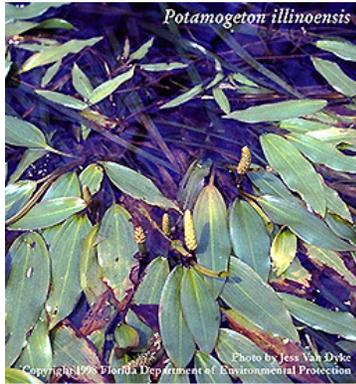


Wildlife Benefits: Most often eaten by wildfowl including: Black Duck, Canvasback, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Blue and Green-winged Teal, and American Widgeon. Pinnated Grouse and Prairie Chicken also eat the plants.

Submerged Plants

Common Name: Illinois Pondweed

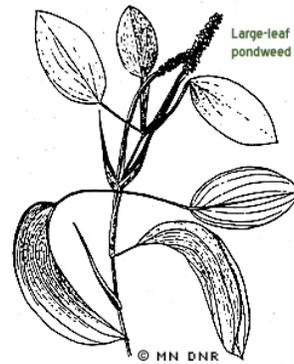
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton illinoensis*



Wildlife Benefits: Food for Wood Duck, but is of lesser importance.

Common Name: Large-leaf Pondweed/Water Cabbage

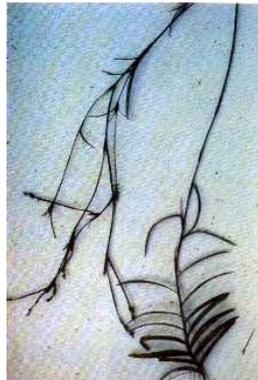
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton amplifolius*



Wildlife Benefits: Desirable Wood Duck food.

Common Name: Robbins' Pondweed

Scientific Name: *Potamogeton robbinsii*



Wildlife Benefits: Sometimes eaten by ducks. Indicator of good water quality.

Submerged Plants

Common Name: Sago Pondweed

Scientific Name: *Potamogeton pectinatus*



Wildlife Benefits: Nutlets and tubers make this the most important pondweed for ducks including: Black Duck, Canvasback, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Ring-neck, Greater Scaup, Shoveller, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, and Wood Duck.

Common Name: Stringy Pondweed

Scientific Name: *Potamogeton sp.*



Wildlife Benefits: Good food for wildfowl including: Gadwall, Mallard, Ring-neck, Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon.

Plants To Watch Out For

Common Name: Curly-leaf Pondweed
Scientific Name: *Potamogeton crispus*



Wildlife Benefits: Eaten by Wood Ducks, but may become an undesirable weed species.

Common Name: Eurasian Watermilfoil
Scientific Name: *Myriophyllum spicatum*



Wildlife Benefits: Achenes are eaten by wildfowl.

Common Name: Purple Loosestrife
Scientific Name: *Lythrum salicaria* L.



Wildlife Benefits: This species has little wildlife value. The large colonies that this species creates actually result in a loss of plant and animal diversity because it replaces higher value species. DO NOT PLANT