

Key to Invasive or Potentially Invasive Aquatic Plants of Connecticut

Key also includes commonly confused native species

Floating-Leaf Plants (field characteristic)

1. Leaves in a rosette; inflated petioles
 2. Oval leaves; light purple flowers. *Eichhornia crassipes*
 2. Triangular, toothed leaves; spiny fruit *Trapa natans*
1. Leaves comprised of four leaflets, resembling a four-leaf clover *Marsilea quadrifolia*
1. Leaves heart-shaped
 2. Yellow flowers
 3. flowers with five, fringed petals. *Nymphoides peltata*
 3. flowers ball shaped, with entire petals; petiole flattened on one side. *Nuphar variegata* (native)
 2. White flowers with five, fringed petals; roots close to the floating leaves, near the surface of the water. *Nymphoides cordata* (native)

Submersed Plants (field characteristic)

1. Leaves opposite (paired)
 2. Leaves dissected, comprised of forked leaflets, fan-like
 3. Leaves attached to the stem by a petiole; small, floating, entire leaves; small, white flower. *Cabomba caroliniana*
 3. Leaves not attached to the stem by a petiole; a yellow or orange flower; emersed, entire, toothed leaves on spike. *Megalodonta beckii* (threatened native)
 2. Leaves entire (not dissected)
 3. Spoon-shaped leaves measuring 0.4-1.2 in. long and arising from a modified underground stem; forming a low growing mat *Glossostigma cleistanthum*
 3. Lance-shaped leaves on branched stems
 4. Toothed leaf edges visible without magnification; leaves appear curled under *Najas minor*
 4. Magnification needed to see toothed edges *Najas flexilis* (native)
1. Leaves alternate with wavy (lasagna-form) edges; turions may be present; prominent leaf mid-vein. *Potamogeton crispus*
1. Leaves whorled
 2. Leaves dissected
 3. Leaves have a feathery appearance
 4. Leaves concentrated above the water; thin, rounded tipped, blue-green leaves. *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
 4. Leaves concentrated below the water
 5. Leaf whorls less than 1 inch apart, giving the plant a ropy look; triangular shaped leaves, with less than or equal to 11 pairs of leaflets; thick spike with entire, toothed leaves. *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*
 5. Leaf whorls 1 inch apart; rectangular shaped leaves, with greater than or equal to 12 pairs of leaflets; thin spike without leaves. *Myriophyllum spicatum*
 3. Leaves forked and toothed; not rooted; no spike *Ceratophyllum* species (native)
 2. Leaves entire (not dissected)
 3. Whorls of 3 leaves; leaves not toothed. *Elodea* species (native)
 3. Whorls of 4 leaves; toothed leaf margins seen with magnification. *Egeria densa*
 3. Whorls of 5 leaves; toothed leaf margins; mid-vein may be toothed; tubers present; may have turions. *Hydrilla verticillata*

SEE REVERSE FOR DEFINITIONS OF PLANT TERMS

Plant Terms

- **Alternate**- one leaf per node on different sides of the stem
- **Dissected**- leaf divided into many narrow segments; leaf can appear feathery, branched or forked; opposite of entire
- **Entire**- leaf not divided and margins not toothed; opposite of dissected
- **Forked**- leaf divided into two or more equal leaflets
- **Leaflet**- a division in a dissected leaf
- **Opposite**- across from each other at the same node
- **Petiole**- leaf stalk; stem-like structure that attaches a leaf to the stem
- **Rosette**- a dense cluster of leaves that are all at a single height, like petals of a rose
- **Spike**- un-branched continuation of the stem where flowers are located, usually located above the water
- **Tooth**- any small point or lobe along a leaf margin
- **Tuber**- modified, underground stem for starch storage and a form of vegetative reproduction
- **Turion**- a modified leaf bud on a stem or shoot, a form of vegetative reproduction
- **Whorled**- three or more leaves at the same node, forming a ring-like arrangement



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