

# Potamogeton crispus

**Invasive to Maine**

Curly Leaf Pondweed,  
Curly Pondweed

Freshwater  
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

## Leaves



fabelfroh, www.flickr.com



Look for leaves that are long (4 to 10 cm) and thin (1 cm or less) with finely toothed edges, that are also ruffled (like a lasagne noodle). The leaves alternate on the stem.

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
 EMERGENT	 ALTERNATE	 ELLIPTICAL	 FEATHER DIVIDED
 FLOATING LEAF	 OPPOSITE	 BLADE	 TOOTHED
 SUBMERSED	 WHORLED	 ELONGATE	 SMOOTH

## Plant



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for a plant with lots of wavy branches growing mostly underwater. They sometimes form dense mats on the surface when fully grown.

## Stem



fabelfroh, www.flickr.com



Look for stems that are long (up to 3 m) and slightly flattened with lots of branches.

## Seasonal Change



CFAP, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

In May and June, look for flowers that are tiny, and tightly bunched on a thin (often curving) stalk that rises above the water.

## Similar Species

You can tell the leaves of Curly leaf pondweed apart from other species in the pondweed group if you look at them in the light. They look like stained-glass windows (little rectangles inside a border). The toothed, ruffled edges of the leaf also set Curly leaf pondweed apart from others in the pondweed group.

## Did You Know?

Curly leaf pondweed sprouts from rhizomes (underground stems) and turions (special buds) in the late fall and grows under the ice throughout the winter. By June Curly leaf pondweed is full grown!

If you think you found this species, call Maine's  
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program: 207-783-7733 OR Department of  
Environmental Protection: 1-800-452-1942

Researched and created by: Brendan O'Keefe

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



www.vitalsignsme.org