

Curlyleaf Pondweed

Potamogeton crispus

Biology:

A submerged perennial with reddish-green leaves that have distinct wavy edges. Leaves are finely toothed, oblong in shape, and typically about three inches long. The plant's flat, reddish-brown stem grows from one to 16 feet long. Most reproduction is from winter buds but seed production is possible. Plants begin to die back by mid-July.

Habitat:

Plants are tolerant of low light and low water temperatures and are commonly found in alkaline and high nutrient waters. Invades shallow as well as deep water areas of 12 feet or more.

Origin:

Native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia.

NY and Adirondack Range:

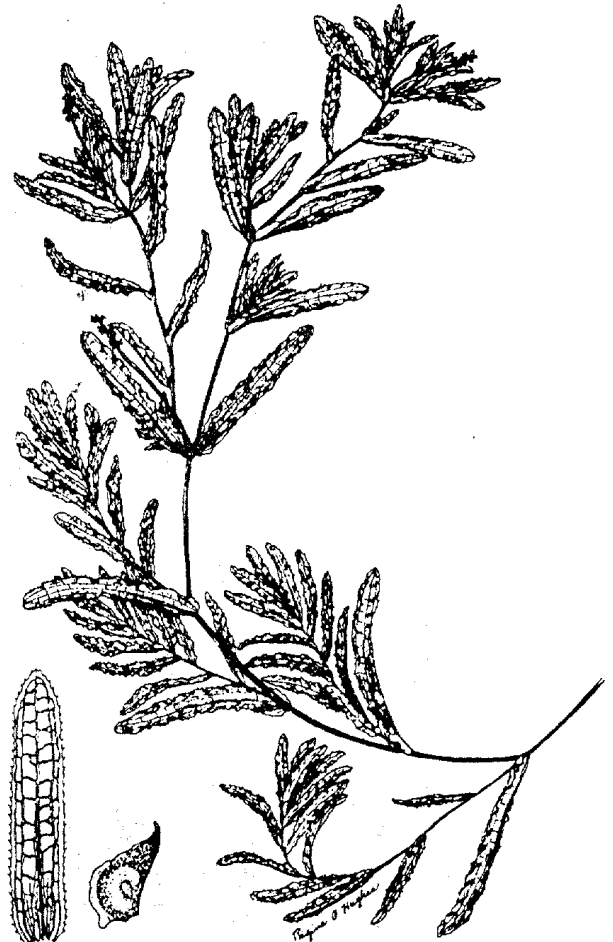
Found in lakes, ponds, and streams throughout NY state. In the Adirondack Park, documented in Lake Champlain and various waterbodies in eastern portions of the Park.

Spread:

A popular aquarium plant, it was accidentally introduced to U.S. waters by hobbyists in the mid 1880's. The plant spreads through burr-like winter buds called turions. Each plant can yield hundreds of turions which are moved through water ways.

Problems:

New plants form under ice cover during late winter, making Curlyleaf Pondweed one of the first non-native, invasive aquatic plants to emerge in the early spring. Plant die-offs in mid-summer may result in a critical loss of oxygen. Also, decaying plant matter can increase water nutrients and contribute to subsequent algal blooms.



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