

# Potamogeton spp.



## pondweed

Family	Potamogetonaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	5

### DESCRIPTION

Pondweeds are the largest group of aquatic plants in West Virginia. They are perennial rooted species with two leaf types. Submersed leaves are usually limp, very narrow and thread-like, while the floating leaves when present are wide and firm in comparison.

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Flowers form small spikes that can be observed submersed or just above the water surface. Pollination is both by water and wind. Fruits are an important food for waterfowl.

### HABITAT

Quiet waters of small streams and rivers, lake margins, ponds, and marshes.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Identifying pondweeds to the species level can be difficult, but it is easy to distinguish our native pondweeds from the invasive curly pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus*, with its wavy finely toothed leaf edges.



*Potamogeton epiphydrus* – floating leaves & flowers

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*Potamogeton epiphydrus* - submersed leaves

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*Potamogeton crispus*

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