**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.