

Aquatic Plant Identification



Floating Aquatic Plants

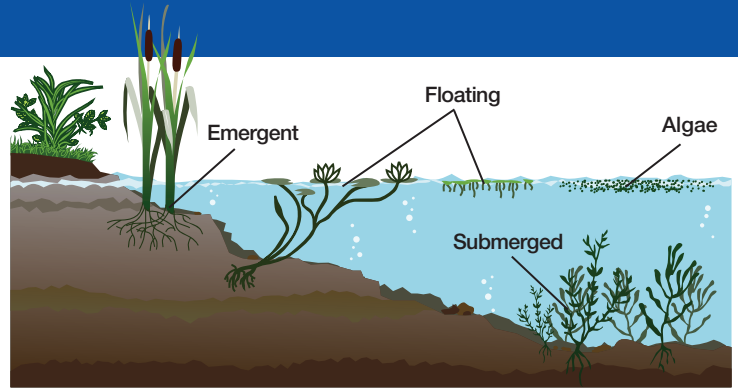
Plants with leaves that float on the surface and are rooted on the bottom are included in this category. Free-floating surface plants that derive their nutrients directly from the water through the cell wall or by means of a well-developed root system are also in this group. Water is critical for support of the plants or its leaves.

Submerged Weeds

Plants that are generally rooted at the bottom and are completely underwater are in this category. Submerged weeds are usually flaccid and lack rigid cellular tissue. Flowers, if present, may extend above the water surface.

Emergent Weeds

Plants which grow above the water in shallow areas of ponds, lakes, irrigation ditches and rivers are emergent. These plants are generally rigid and are not dependent on water for support. Many are not truly aquatic but can survive in saturated soils or submerged for a considerable period of time.



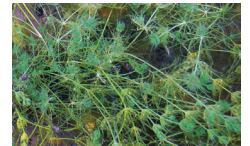
Algae - are primitive plants with no true leaves, stems or root systems



Filamentous (moss)
Stringy, green mats, usually grows from bottom and rises to the surface, aka moss

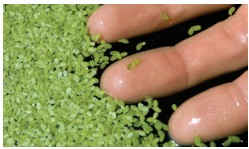


Planktonic (pea soup)
Causes water to have green or brownish tinge, can cause taste or odor



Chara (Muskgrass, Stonewort)
Plant-like structure, identified by musky odor and gritty, bristly feel

Floating Plants - are surface plants and rooted floating leaf plants



Duckweed
Small free-floating plants with short roots



Watermeal
Rootless, grain-sized. Often associated with colonies of duckweed



Salvinia
Rounded paired leaves 1/2" long with root-like hairs beneath



Watershield
Oval-shaped leaves with slimy coating underneath and on stems of mature plants, purple flowers

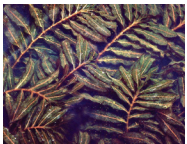


Water Lily
Large, round notched leaves, similar to spatterdock having showy flowers



Water Pennywort
Half-dollar sized, shiny, leathery leaves, long creeping stems can form dense mats.

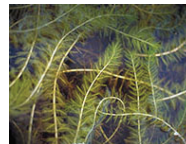
Submerged Plants - are usually rooted at the bottom and entirely under water



Pondweeds
There are many species of pondweed including: Curly-leaf pondweed (upper left), American pondweed (top center) and Sago pondweed (upper right)



Coontail
Rootless, leaves crowded at tip



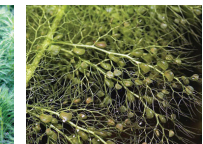
Eurasian Watermilfoil
Leaves in whorls of 4 with up to 20 leaf divisions, stalk with tiny reddish flowers may extend above surface



Naiad
Slender, branching stem with leaves less than 1" long that are wider at the base: spines on margins



Hydrilla/Elodea
Long-stemmed branching plants with whorled leaves 5/8" long, leaves toothed in Hydrilla, not in Elodea



Bladderwort
Bladder-like pods on leaves

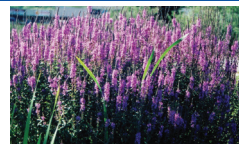
Emergent Plants - are (marginal) plants grow above water in shallow depths



Cattail
Up to 9 foot stalks with sausage-like, spikey flower



Creeping Water Primrose
Hollow red stem with many leaves and yellow flowers



Purple Loosestrife
2 - 7 foot tall with purple flowers



Phragmites
10 - 12 feet tall, forms dense stands

If you would like to talk to a **SEPRO Water Team Member**, call **866-444-8097**