



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Thin, rough leaves or “branchlets” whorled around stem; usually in whorls of at least 6 branchlets.
- Musty or “garlicy” odor.
- Often found in alkaline waters.
- Forms thick, underwater mats that seldom reach the surface. Often appears like rolling meadows underwater.



Distinguishing Characteristics

- **Small, strap-like leaves (1-inch long) in whorls of 3 to 8 around stem.**
- **Leaf margins noticeably serrate and rough to the touch; and sometimes small 2 to 4 barbs or spines on underside midrib of leaf.**
- **Resembles *Elodea* and *Egeria* which are smooth to the touch.**
- **Forms very dense mats reaching surface.**

Justicia americana
Waterwillow



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Long, very narrow leaves arranged oppositely along stem.
- Stems always erect and more narrow than alligatorweed or water primrose.
- Faint purple, irregular flower.
- Spreads by rhizomes and can grow out from shoreline in deeper water; plants erect and not floating; weed beds not as dense compared to *Alternanthera phytoleroides* or *Ludwigia spp.* and can provide excellent fish cover.

Non-native

***Eichhornia crassipes*
Water Hyacinth**



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Each floating plant consists of several spongy leaf stalks that are bulbous and inflated at base; leaves are arranged in rosettes and are spade-shaped and curled upward on sides; leaves usually point upward.
- Plant roots feathery and finely-divided.
- Big, showy, light purple flower.
- Plants can group together, forming thick mats along the shoreline; on calm days, plants may scatter.
- When grouped along shoreline, resembles *Limnobium spongia*, but hyacinth plants are never rooted.

Ceratophyllum demersum
Coontail

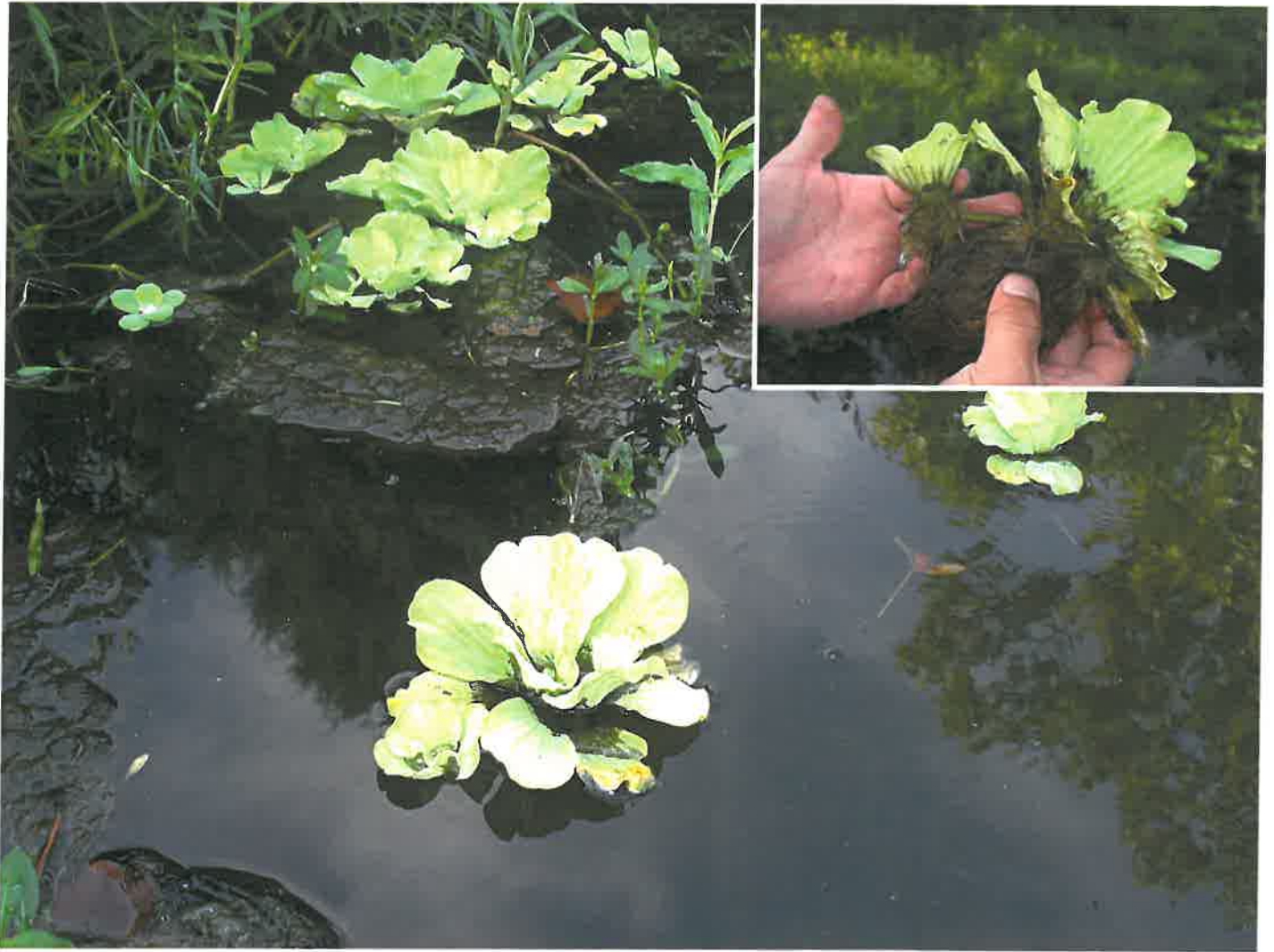


Distinguishing Characteristics

- Thin, rough leaves very similar to *Chara* that are whorled around stem; but the leaves are forked and whorls of a healthy specimen are closer together giving the appearance of a raccoon's tail.
- Plant has no noticeable odor.
- Can grow in deep water and become topped out at the surface.

Non-native

Pistia stratiotes
Water Lettuce



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Plants faint green with fine hairs covering surface of leaves; leaves arranged in rosettes; parallel leaf veins.
- Long, feathery roots.
- Plant resembles a head of cabbage.
- Plants can group together, forming thick mats along the shoreline; on calm days, plants may scatter.

Ludwigia peploides
Water Primrose



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Leaves arranged alternately around thick, hollow stem that is green to red; leaves can have many different shapes, but often oval or club-shaped.
- Flowers yellow.
- Rooted along shoreline, but forms floating mat. Often has semi-erect stems and runners creeping away from the shore. The leaves on runners are often maroon in color usually, shorter and rounder, and lay flat on the surface.

Non-native

Alternanthera phyloxeroides
Alligatorweed



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Leaves arranged oppositely along stem. Leaves can have many different shapes, but often narrow and coming to a point.
- White flower
- Thick, hollow green to reddish-purple stem.
- Rooted along shoreline, but forms floating mat of erect stems. Mats can detach from shoreline.

Non-native

Myriophyllum spicatum
Eurasian Watermilfoil



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Leaves whorled around stem similar to coontail; but each leaf is limp and deeply divided giving it a feather appearance similar to *M. aquaticum*; each leaf has at least 24 leaflets.
- Stem thick and green.
- Forms thick, underwater mats that can become topped-out.

Non-native

***Egeria densa*
Brazilian Elodea**



Distinguishing Characteristics

- **Small, strap-like leaves (1-inch long) tightly whorled around thick stem; whorls of 3 to 6 leaves, but most often 4; often confused with *Elodea* which is usually less robust and leaves typically in whorls of 3.**
- **Forms very dense mats reaching the surface.**
- **Occasionally see small white flower with 3 petals on frail stalk just above surface.**



Distinguishing Characteristics

- Blue-green algae that is very thick and tough when pulled apart.
- Often has musty or foul odor.
- Usually found in relatively high alkaline water.
- Forms thick, floating mats that are usually dark green or nearly black; but color may become mottled with light green or even white later in summer.