

# Potamogeton crispus

Curly Leaf Pondweed,  
Curly Pondweed

**Invasive to Maine**

Freshwater  
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

## Leaves



fabelfroh, www.flickr.com



Look for leaves that are long (4 to 10 cm) and thin (1 cm or less) with finely toothed edges, that are also ruffled (like a lasagne noodle). The leaves alternate on the stem.

| PLANT COMMUNITY   | LEAF ARRANGEMENT | LEAF SHAPE     | LEAF EDGE           |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <br>EMERGENT      | <br>ALTERNATE    | <br>ELLIPTICAL | <br>FEATHER DIVIDED |
| <br>FLOATING LEAF | <br>OPPOSITE     | <br>BLADE      | <br>TOOTHED         |
| <br>SUBMERSED     | <br>WHORLED      | <br>ELONGATE   | <br>SMOOTH          |

## Plant



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for a plant with lots of wavy branches growing mostly underwater.

## Stem



fabelfroh, www.flickr.com



Look for stems that are long (up to 3 m) and slightly flat with lots of branches.

## Seasonal Change



CFAP, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

In May and June, look for flowers that are tiny, and tightly bunched on a thin (often curving) stalk that rises above the water.

[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)

## Similar Species

You can tell the leaves of Curly Leaf Pondweed apart from native pondweed species if you look at them in the light. They look like stained-glass windows. Look for miniature rectangles inside a border. The toothed and ruffled edges of the leaf also set Curly Leaf Pondweed apart from other pondweeds.

## Fun Fact

Curly Leaf Pondweed sprouts from rhizomes (underground stems) and turions (special buds) in the late fall and grows under the ice throughout the winter. By April Curly Leaf Pondweed is full grown!