

Trapa natans

Water Chestnut,
Bull Nut, Water Nut

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Leaves



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for floating leaves that are broad (3 to 6 cm across) and triangular and in circular clusters. Underwater and below the cluster of floating leaves, look for feather-divided leaves.

| PLANT COMMUNITY | LEAF ARRANGEMENT | LEAF SHAPE | LEAF EDGE |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| EMERGENT | OPPOSITE | TRIANGULAR | FEATHER DIVIDED |
| FLOATING LEAF | ONE LEAF PER STEM | HEART | TOOTHED |
| SUBMERSED | 2+ LEAVES PER STEM | OVAL | SMOOTH |

Plant



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for a plant with floating clusters of leaves.

Stem



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Within each leaf cluster, the leaf stems are inflated. The stem that connects the leaf clusters to the bottom of the lake or pond can be up to 5 m long.

Seasonal Change



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, www.bugwood.org/ Vic Ramey, UF

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In July look for flowers that are small, white, and appear where leaves attach to the stem. In October and November look for a spiny nut that turns from green to brown.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

The Water Chestnut is not easily confused with other aquatic plants. Its leaf is triangular. Most of the other floating-leaved plants you will find in Maine have heart-shaped leaves.

Fun Fact

The nut of the Water Chestnut is adapted for long-distance travel. It has spines that can attach to animals or boats. It can wait 12 years to sprout.