

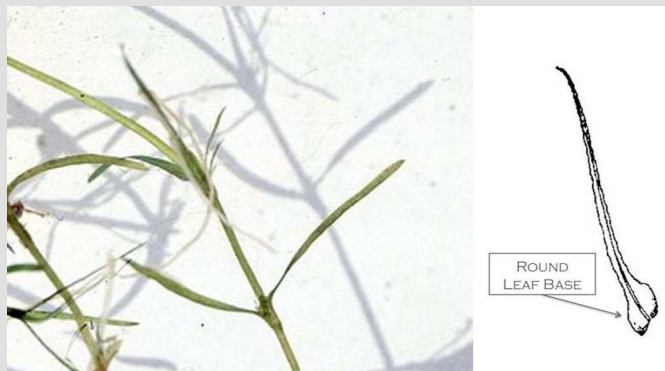
# Najas flexilis

Slender Naiad

Native to Maine

Freshwater  
Ponds and Lakes

## Leaves



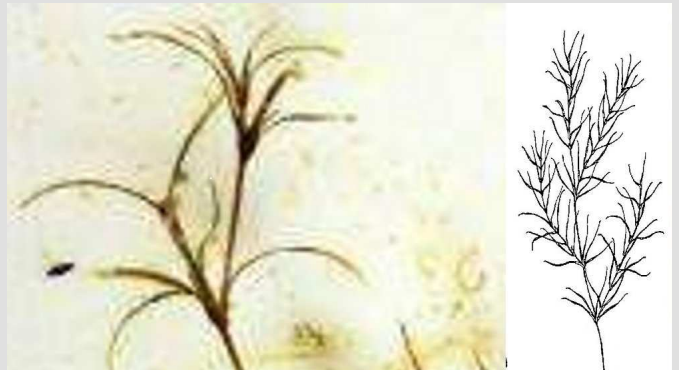
Robert H. Mohlenbrock USDA, Diagram USDA



Look for small leaves (2 to 3 cm) that are elongate. They are thin, pointed, and have finely-toothed edges. The base of each leaf that wraps around the stem is rounded (not jagged) and square. Leaves can be alternate, opposite, or whorled!

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
 EMERGENT	 ALTERNATE	 ELLIPTICAL	 FEATHER DIVIDED
 FLOATING LEAF	 OPPOSITE	 BLADE	 TOOTHED
 SUBMERSED	 WHORLED	 ELONGATE	 SMOOTH

## Plant



www.eol.org, Diagram USDA



Look for an underwater plant with lots of thin branches and leaves. Slender Naiad is found in water up to 4 m deep.

## Stem



Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA



Look for stems that are thin and flexible. They grow up to 3 m long and have many branches at the upper end of the stem.

## Seasonal Change

### Your Photo here!

We need a picture of the flowers and stem of the Slender Naiad for this identification card. Please take a clear photo of the tiny flowers and long thin stem, and send it to [vitalsigns@gmri.org](mailto:vitalsigns@gmri.org)

From July to August look for green flowers that are as small as a grain of sand, growing in the crevices between the leaves and stem.

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

## Similar Species

You can tell the native Slender Naiad apart from the invasive European Naiad by looking at the base of the leaves (where they attach to the stem). The Slender Naiad has a smooth, rounded leaf base. The European Naiad has a jagged square-shaped leaf base.

## Fun Fact

Unlike most plants, Naiads live for less than a year. They die back in the fall and rely upon seeds to re-populate in the spring.