

# Nuphar variegata

Spatterdock

Native to Maine

Freshwater  
Ponds and Lakes

## Leaves



peupleoup, www.flickr.com



Look for leaves that are large (up to 10 to 25 cm) and heart-shape with smooth edges. The notch where the stem attaches to the leaf is usually less than half the length of the leaf.

## Plant



peupleoup, www.flickr.com



Look for a plant with ONE large floating leaf attached to ONE long underwater stem. Spatterdock is found in water less than 2.5 m deep.

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

## Stem



www.wikimedia.org



Look for thick, elastic stems with a flattened side and a rounded side that has wings running along each edge. Each stem supports one leaf.

## Seasonal Change



peupleoup, www.flickr.com



In July and August look for round flowers with 5 to 8 yellow sepals (petal-like coverings). Inside the sepals you will find small strap-like petals and a light green center disk.

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

## Similar Species

All native floating-leaved species in Maine, like Spatterdock, have just one leaf per stem. If you find a plant with more than one, that means it is non-native and may be invasive! Also look for the wings on the stem. This is a good way to tell this species apart from other natives like Little Floating Heart.

## Fun Fact

In the past, the roots of Spatterdock were used in stews and made into flour. The seeds were popped like popcorn. Native Americans used the leaves to stop bleeding.