

Codium fragile

Invasive to Maine

Dead Man's Fingers,
Green Fleece, Oyster Thief

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal






Growth Pattern



Urtica, www.flickr.com



Look for an alga that grows dichotomously, meaning each branch divides into two over and over and over. See the diagram below.

GROWTH PATTERN	THALLUS CROSS-SECTION
 DICHOTOMOUS GROWTH	 ROUND
 AXIAL GROWTH	 FLATTENED
	 FLATTENED WITH MIDRIB

Thallus (Body)



Vital Signs user Sy-fy Chicks I



Look for pencil-thick growth with a firm, sponge-like texture. The alga can grow up to 40 cm long.

Color



MIT Sea Grant College Program

PERMITTED USE

Look for an alga that is dark green, the color of cooked spinach.

Other Information



VS Out-of-school Educators



When Dead Man's Fingers dies, its thallus (body) fades to a pale grey-tan color. It can grow on shells or rocks or any other hard surface.

Similar Species

Dead Man's Fingers is unlike any other native or invasive algae in Maine.

Did You Know?

Each individual Dead Man's Fingers is a single (multinucleate) cell! When you cut it, it oozes because it has no cell walls to hold in its cytoplasm (cell fluid). A cut off branch can grow into a new individual.

Researched and created by Nicole Waite

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



Gulf of Maine
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