

Didymosphenia geminata

Didymo,
Rock Snot

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater
Rivers and Streams

Growth Pattern



Southland (NZ) Fish and Game

PERMITTED USE

Look for mats of algae that look slimy but feel like wet wool. They can completely cover submerged plants, rocks, and objects, growing in mats or rope-like strands.

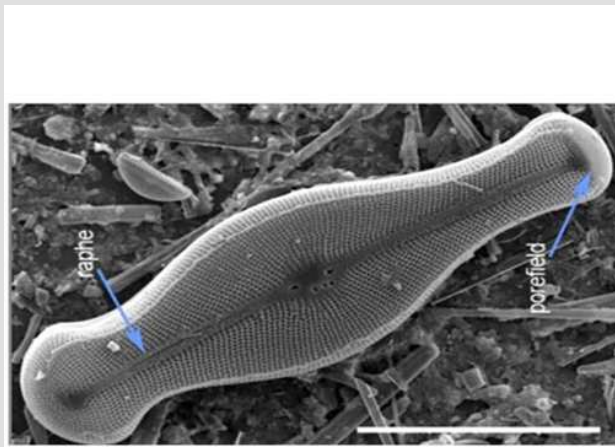
Thallus (Body)



Fish and Game New Zealand

PERMITTED USE

Mats of this alga are made up of microscopic diatoms attached to surfaces by stalks.



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Color



Southland (NZ) Fish and Game

PERMITTED USE

Look for brown, tan, or whitish mats that may be washed into white tissue-like shreds towards the ends.

Other Information



Laurel, Photobucket

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Didymo can survive in damp conditions for more than 30 days so is easily transported to invade new habitats. Once there, it chokes out insects and fish lose their food source.

Similar Species

Didymo is sometimes mistaken for debris like fiberglass or tissue paper. Unlike other clumps of algae, didymo mats cling together and resist being pulled apart.

Did You Know?

Didymo has been carried to new locations by boats and fishing gear. It can be killed by letting contaminated gear dry out or soaking gear in salt water. The dense mats threaten other organisms by covering the bottom of freshwater bodies.

Researched and created by Sue Donaldson

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



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