# Potamogeton crispus

Curly Leaf Pondweed, Curly Pondweed

## **Invasive to Maine**

Freshwater Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

#### Leaves



Look for leaves that are long (4 to 10 cm) and thin (1 cm or less) with finely toothed edges, that are also ruffled (like a lasagne noodle). The leaves alternate on the stem.

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
EMERGENT	ALTERNATE	ELLIPTICAL	FEATHER DIVIDED
N#W	All I	<b>(3)</b>	~
FLOATING LEAF	OPPOSITE	BLADE	TOOTHED
	**		
SUBMERSED	WHORLED	ELONGATE	SMOOTH

#### **Plant**



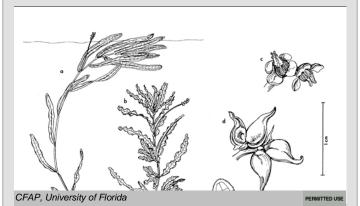
Look for a plant with lots of wavy branches growing mostly underwater. They sometimes form dense mats on the surface when fully grown.

#### **Stem**



Look for stems that are long (up to 3 m) and slightly flattened with lots of branches.

### **Seasonal Change**



In May and June, look for flowers that are tiny, and tightly bunched on a thin (often curving) stalk that rises above the water.

### **Similar Species**

You can tell the leaves of Curly leaf pondweed apart from other species in the pondweed group if you look at them in the light. They look like stained-glass windows (little rectangles inside a border). The toothed, ruffled edges of the leaf also set Curly leaf pondweed apart from others in the pondweed group.

#### Did You Know?

Curly leaf pondweed sprouts from rhizomes (underground stems) and turions (special buds) in the late fall and grows under the ice throughout the winter. By June Curly leaf pondweed is full grown!

If you think you found this species, call Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program: 207-783-7733 OR Department of Environmental Protection: 1-800-452-1942



