

Trapa natans

Water Chestnut,
Bull Nut, Water Nut

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Leaves



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for floating leaves that are broad (3 to 6 cm across) and triangular and in circular clusters. Underwater and below the cluster of floating leaves, look for feather-divided leaves.

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

Plant



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for a plant with floating clusters of leaves.

Stem



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Within each leaf cluster, the leaf stems are inflated. The stem that connects the leaf clusters to the bottom of the lake or pond can be up to 5 m long.

Seasonal Change



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, www.bugwood.org/ Vic Ramey, UF

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In July look for flowers that are small, white, and appear where leaves attach to the stem. In October and November look for a spiny nut that turns from green to brown.

Similar Species

The Water Chestnut is not easily confused with other aquatic plants. Its leaf is triangular. Most of the other floating-leaved plants you will find in Maine have heart-shaped leaves.

Did You Know?

The nut of the Water Chestnut is adapted for long-distance travel. It has spines that can attach it to animals or boats. It can wait 12 years to sprout.

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