

Ceratophyllum demersum

Native to Maine

Coontail
Rigid Hornwort

Freshwater
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Leaves



JC Schou, Biopix

PERMITTED USE

Look for bright green, segmented, and forked leaves that are arranged in whorls on the stem. Each leaf segment has several small teeth.

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
 EMERGENT	 ALTERNATE	 ELONGATE	 TOOTHED
 FLOATING LEAF	 OPPOSITE	 BLADE	 FORK DIVIDED
 SUBMERSED	 WHORLED	 OVAL	 BRANCH DIVIDED

Plant



Vic Ramey, University of FL

PERMITTED USE

Look for a fully submerged, free-floating aquatic plant growing in still or very slow-moving water.

Stem



Bernd Haynold, Wikipedia

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Look for long (up to 30 cm), smooth stems with dense leaves at the tip and 0 to 3 branches at each stem node (where stem branches). Stems do not have roots but may be buried.

Seasonal Change



Christian Fischer, Wikipedia

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Flowers are tiny at the base of the leaves and difficult to see on this plant. It rarely produces fruit. Coontail can be found thriving in water under the ice in winter!

Similar Species

Coontail resembles Prickly Hornwort, but is less delicate and usually grows in shallower water than Prickly Hornwort. Coontail leaves fork only 2 times and have teeth, but Prickly Hornwort has toothless leaves that usually fork 3 to 4 times.

Fun Fact

The whorls of leaves of this plant are densely packed together at the ends of stems, giving them an appearance similar to a racoon's tail. This is how the plant got its name "Coontail".