Ceratophyllum echinatum

Native to Maine

Prickly Hornwort Spineless Hornwort

Freshwater Lakes, Ponds, Marshes, and Swamps

Leaves



Look for stiff, segmented leaves with toothless edges. The leaves are in whorls on the stem, and each leaf forks 3 or 4 times.

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	Leaf Edge
	the		
EMERGENT	ALTERNATE	ELONGATE	SMOOTH
N. T.	A A		FORK
FLOATING LEAF	OPPOSITE	BLADE	DIVIDED
SUBMERSED	WHORLED	OVAL	BRANCH DIVIDED

Plant

Your Photo here!

We need a picture of the floating plant of *Ceratophyllum echinatum* for this identification card. Please take a clear photo of the plant and send it to:

vitalsigns@gmri.org

Your name here

Look for a submerged plant floating in water up to 2.5 m deep.

Stem



Look for long trailing stems (up to 1 m long) without true roots. Each leaf node on the stem (where leaves attach) has 5 to 10 leaves in whorls.

Seasonal Change



In the fall, look for fruit that has a rough surface and several spines of different lengths on its edges.

Similar Species

Prickly hornwort resembles Coontail, but is more delicate and usually grows in deeper water than Coontail. Prickly hornwort leaves fork 3 to 4 times and have no teeth, whereas Coontail leaves usually fork two times and have toothed segments.

Fun Fact

This plant is usually only found in water with low pH and is listed as a species in danger of disappearing in Maine. The latin name echinatum means "with spikes".

