

Nymphoides cordata

Little Floating Heart

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Leaves



VS user EyesOnTheWater



Look for leaves that are small (2 to 5 cm across) and heart-shaped. The leaf edges are smooth and slightly wavy. The leaves can be solid green in color or covered in purple blotches.

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



Jomegat, wikimediacommons



Look for a plant with ONE small floating leaf attached to ONE underwater stem.

Stem



VS user EyesOnTheWater



Look for stems that are long and thin with an extra set of roots (that look like tiny banana bunches) near the leaf.

Seasonal Change



cotinus, www.flickr.com



From June to September look for white flowers 1 cm wide with five petals and yellow centers. They rise above the surface on thin stems.

Similar Species

One great way to tell this species apart from the invasive floating-leaved plants in Maine is to count the number of leaves on each stem. All native species, like Little Floating Heart, have just one leaf per stem. If you find a plant with more than one, that means it is non-native and may be invasive!

Did You Know?

In the winter the leaves and stems of Little Floating Heart die. All that is left of the plant are the rhizomes (creeping underground stems) and tubers (storage-roots like potatoes). In the spring the rhizomes and tubers sprout new leaves and stems.