

NAJAS GRACILLIMA (A. Braun) Magnus  
Thread-like Naiad

FAMILY: Najadaceae

HABIT: Submersed annual herb, stems 4.5-48 cm; flowers July-Sept., fruits Aug.-Oct.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *N. gracillima* is most similar to the common alien species *N. minor*. These species can usually be separated in the vegetative state by the recurved leaves of *N. minor*. However, young plants of *N. minor* may be difficult to distinguish from *N. gracillima*. The shape and surface markings on fruits and the length of the mature style are needed for positive identification (Wentz and Stuckey 1971).

TOTAL RANGE: N.S. to AL, W. to MN and MS; CA.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Geauga and Portage counties. There are pre-1980 records from Ottawa and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Clear water of natural, soft-water lakes.

HAZARDS: Turbidity caused by pollution, siltation or eutrophication.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Poor due to the paucity of clean natural lakes in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: The species is apparently becoming more rare in Ohio as lakes are fouled. It should be sought in clean, natural lakes.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Haynes, R.R. and W.A. Wentz. 1979. Revision of North and Central American *Najas* (Najadaceae). *Sida* 8: 34-56.

Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan Flora, Part I. Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 pp.

Wentz, W.A. and R.L. Stuckey. 1971. The changing distribution of the genus *Najas* (Najadaceae) in Ohio. *Ohio J. Sci.*: 71: 292-302.



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