

POTAMOGETON SPIRILLUS Tuckerm.
Spiral Pondweed

FAMILY: Potamogetonaceae (Zosteraceae, Najadaceae)

HABIT: Submersed aquatic, bushy-branched, and bearing only submersed leaves, or more elongate and with some branches more prolonged and terminated by dilated floating leaves; spikes dimorphic or trimorphic; flowering July-November; fruiting August-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The submersed leaves are often curved, giving the whole bushy plant the aspect of a broad-leaved *Najas*. Additionally, *P. spirillus* has often been confused with *P. diversifolius*, partly because of similar appearance, partly because of confusion of nomenclature; both species having been included in *P. dimorphus*.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to e. Man., s. to N.S., s. N.E., DE, VA, WV, OH, WI, IA, and SD.

STATE RANGE: Post-1950 records are known from Ashtabula, Jefferson, Lorain, Mahoning, Meigs, Portage, Preble, and Trumbull counties.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1983: Threatened, 1884-1987: Potentially Threatened, 1988-1995: Threatened, 1996-1999: Endangered, 2000 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Quiet shallow waters of lakes, ponds, wet swales, and rarely quiet river borders.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but perhaps mechanical disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, owing to the species' scattered occurrence in eastern Ohio and its tolerance of warmer waters.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Every effort should be made to obtain fruiting specimens; however, in the absence of fertile material, sterile specimens should be collected.

COMMENTS: This species may be more common in eastern Ohio than records indicate, and should be sought in suitable habitats throughout the region.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Fernald, M.L. 1932. The linear-leaved North American species of *Potamogeton*, section *Axillares*. *Mem. Am. Acad.* 17: 1-183.

Ogden, E.C. 1974. *Potamogeton* in New York. *New York St. Museum Bull.* No. 423. Albany, NY. 20 p.

Reznicek, A.A., and R.S.W. Bobbette. 1976. The taxonomy of *Potamogeton* subsection *Hybridi* in North America. *Rhodora* 78: 650-673.



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