

POTAMOGETON GRAMINEUS L.
Grass-like Pondweed

FAMILY: Potamogetonaceae

HABIT: Submersed and floating-leaved aquatic with slender stem, being highly variable in response to environmental change; flowering July- September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The distinction between *P. illinoensis* and larger-leaved specimens of *P. gramineus* is often arbitrary, particularly in the absence of fruit and floating leaves. Ordinarily, smaller stipules and more slender submersed leaves will distinguish *P. gramineus*.

TOTAL RANGE: Highly variable circumboreal sp., in America extending s. to NY, IA, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Seneca and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 records from Lucas County.

HABITAT: Deep or shallow waters of lakes, ponds, and streams; occasionally plants with "floating" leaves occur stranded on wet shores.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but perhaps mechanical disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor, owing to the species' restricted occurrence in Ohio.

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 is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout the northern half of the state.

Hybrids involving *Potamogeton gramineus* have been frequently reported. These hybrids only add to the difficulty of correctly identifying the Ohio material.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

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Ogden, E.C. 1943. The broad-leaved species of *Potamogeton* of North America, north of Mexico. *Rhodora* 45: 57-105, 119-163, 171-214.

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



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