

POTAMOGETON NATANS L.
Floating Pondweed

FAMILY: Potamogetonaceae

HABIT: Submersed and floating-leaved aquatic with red-spotted rhizome and simple or slightly forking stem; flowering July-September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Combined vegetative characters render the species fairly distinctive. Upper portions of *P. nodosus* and *P. amplifolius* may nearly always be distinguished by rounded or tapering leaf bases. *P. natans* generally has a sharp bend and an area of lighter color at the junction of the petiole and cordate blade. *P. pulcher* has cordate floating leaves, but the fruit is prominently keeled and the broad submersed leaves are generally evident. Very rarely in flowing water a form of *P. natans* will sport floating leaf blades tapered at both ends resembling those of *P. nodosus*; however the petiole-like (phyllodial) submersed leaves and joint-like light band at the summit of the petiole of floating leaves will distinguish *P. natans*.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to PA, IN, IA, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Clermont, Erie, Geauga, Lake, Logan, Lucas, Pike, Portage, Summit, and Williams counties.

HABITAT: Lakes, rivers, ditches, ponds, and bogs; usually in fairly shallow water (less than 2 m.), but reported to depths of 3 m.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but perhaps mechanical disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed poor due to the decline in reported populations of this plant.

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 should be sought with special emphasis on inland waters in the northern tier of Ohio counties.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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