

POTAMOGETON PULCHER Tuckerm.
Spotted Pondweed

FAMILY: Potamogetonaceae

HABIT: Submersed and floating-leaved aquatic with pale, often purple-spotted rhizome, stem usually dark-spotted; flowering June-September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *P. pulcher* resembles *P. amplifolius* and *P. nodosus*; however, the large, coriaceous, cordate, floating leaves; lanceolate, submersed leaves tapering to short petioles; and black-spotted stems of *P. pulcher* aid in recognition.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to FL and AL, chiefly near the coast; s. IN to MO and AR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Jackson, Scioto, and Summit counties. There are pre-1960 records from Ashtabula, Franklin, and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Peaty or muddy, acid waters or shores.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but perhaps mechanical disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor, owing to the long-term absence of the species from areas of former occurrence.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: When possible, collection of the entire plant (including rhizomes) is desirable.

COMMENTS: The waters of eastern Ohio are largely acid and muddy. Given the availability of this habitat, the species may be more widespread than records indicate.

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