

# CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

*Potamogeton crispus*



Be on the lookout for this invader!

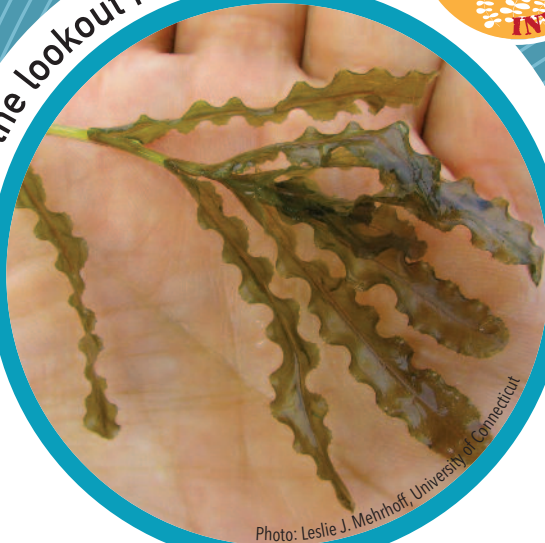


Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

## **Description:**

Submergent, aquatic perennial; ranges from 1-2.5 ft. in length; forms dense mats. Leaves alternate, oblong, up to 3.5" long and 0.4" wide, wavy leaf margins with fine teeth. Flowers found on dense cylindrical spikes that rise above the water. Easily distinguished from other pondweeds by its curly, finely toothed leaf margins.

## **Habitat:**

Shallow to deep waters of lakes and rivers; pollution-tolerant; prefers alkaline, nutrient-rich waters.

## **Mode of Spread:**

Reproduces by vegetative buds, fragmentation; carried by water, boats.

# IDENTIFICATION

STEM



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

LEAVES



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

FLOWERS



Photo: Frank Korshere

**Stems:** Compressed (flat), few branches, up to 31" long and .4" wide

**Leaves:** Submerged, alternate, oblong, up to 3.5" long and 0.4" wide, rounded at the tip; slightly clasping the stem at the base, distinctly wavy leaf margins with fine teeth.

**Flowers:** Found on dense cylindrical spikes that rise above the water for wind pollination; bloom in late spring/early summer.

## Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Crooked River (near Alanson)
- Crooked Lake
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Huron
- Ruggy Pond (Rapid River)

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