

# Invasive Aquatic Plant Volunteer Monitoring Program

## *Invasive Aquatic Plant Profile*

### **Curlyleaf Pondweed**

*Potamogeton crispus*

#### **Biology:**

A submerged perennial with reddish-green leaves that have distinct wavy edges. Leaves are finely toothed, oblong in shape, and typically about three inches long. The plant has a flat, reddish-brown stem that can grow up to 16 feet long. Most reproduction is from winter buds but seed production is possible.

#### **Habitat:**

Plants are tolerant of low light and low water temperatures and are commonly found in alkaline and high nutrient waters.

#### **Origin:**

Native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia.

#### **NY and Adirondack Range:**

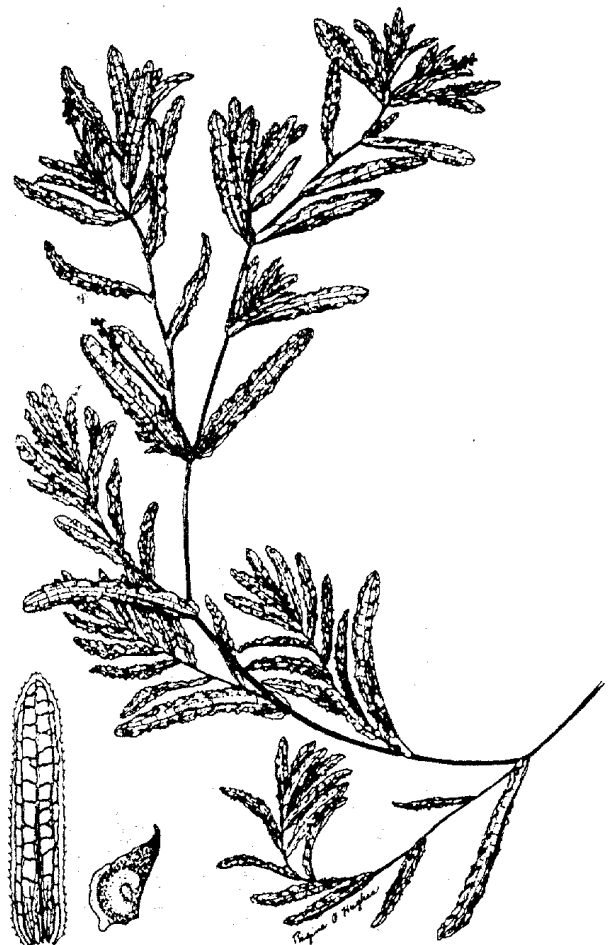
Found in lakes, ponds, and streams throughout NY state. In the Adirondack Park, documented in Lake Champlain and various waterbodies in eastern portions of the Park.

#### **Spread:**

A popular aquarium plant, it was accidentally introduced to U.S. waters by hobbyists in the mid 1880's. The plant spreads through burr-like winter buds called turions. Each plant can yield hundreds of turions which are moved through water ways.

#### **Problems:**

New plants form under ice cover during late winter, making Curlyleaf Pondweed one of the first non-native, invasive aquatic plants to emerge in the early spring. Plant die-offs in mid-summer may result in a critical loss of oxygen. Also, decaying plant matter can increase water nutrients and contribute to subsequent algal blooms.



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