

## *Curlyleaf Pondweed ID Sheet*

### Habitat:

Curlyleaf pondweed is a rooted aquatic plant. It generally prefers soft sediments and grows in waters that are shallow or deep, still or flowing. Curlyleaf thrives where many other aquatic plants do not, for example in waters that are shaded, disturbed, polluted or turbid.

### Description:

Curlyleaf pondweed is a submersed aquatic perennial with submersedleaves only. The slightly flattened stems emerge from slender rhizomes and sprouting turions, often branching profusely as they grow, giving the plants a busy appearance. Mature stems average 15 3/4" to 31 1/2" in length. The leaves of this plant are key to its identification. Though the leaves share some characteristics with some native pondweeds, they also have three distinct characteristics that, together, set this plant apart from its native look alike.

### *Leaf Characteristics Shared With Some Native Pondweeds*

- The leaves are alternately arranged
- The leaves are directly attached to the stem (leaves slightly clasping the stem)
- The leaves are strap-shaped and with rounded tips, narrowing toward the base
- The leaves are 1 1/2" to 4" long, and 1/4" to 1/2" wide
- The leaves are somewhat translucent, olive green to reddish brown in color
- **Leaf Characteristics Not Shared With Native Pondweeds**
- The leaves are serrated (serrations are tiny but visible)
- The edges of mature leaves are distinctly ruffled (like a lasagna noodle)
- The leaves have a unique vein pattern, resembling a narrow, leaded glass window with panes arranged mainly in two columns, enclosed in a frame. (The vein pattern is more visible when illuminated from behind.)
- Turions form in the leaf axils during the growing season. The turions, resembling small ruffled pinecones, are hard (like stiff plastic) and typically 1/3" to 3/4" long.

