

Attention: Post Lake Boaters



Back in the early 2000s, Curly-Leaf Pondweed was observed and chemically treated in Upper Post Lake. Curly-Leaf Pondweed is an invasive species and should be controlled. There have not been any additional reports of the presence of this weed but there is a need for continued monitoring. Curly-Leaf Pondweed can best be observed during the month of May. Please be on the lookout for this weed and report any observation of the plant to 920-390-0405. The last known location of Curly-Leaf Pondweed was in Upper Post in the northwest bay where Pollock Creek enters the lake and in the Wolf River immediately upstream of Upper Post.

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

(POTAMOGETON CRISPUS)

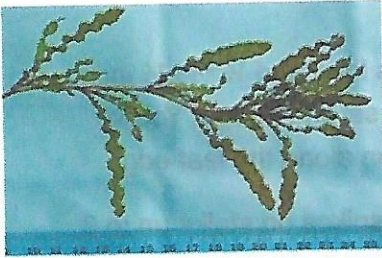


Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

Curly-leaf pondweed is a submersed aquatic plant native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. It was first verified in North America in the 1840s and quickly spread throughout the Northeast and Great Lakes regions into the early 1900s. Curly-leaf pondweed typically reproduces via turions (i.e., vegetative propagules), generally formed in late spring and early summer. The plant naturally dies back soon after turion formation, and the turions remain dormant in the sediment during the remainder of the summer and early fall. When water temperatures cool, the turions germinate (i.e., start growing). While a small number of turions may germinate in the fall (and survive under the ice during the winter), the majority of the turions will germinate the following spring. Curly-leaf proliferates once water temperatures reach 50°F (10°C).



Restricted (orange) counties

Other names for this plant include:

- Common names: curly pondweed, curled pondweed, crisped pondweed

Classification in Wisconsin: Restricted

Ecological and Socio-economic Impacts

- In some waterbodies, curly-leaf pondweed can form extensive mats that impede recreational activities like fishing, boating, and swimming.



decompose and use oxygen, possibly leading to a dissolved oxygen crash. However, the impacts from the curly-leaf pondweed die-off on water quality and phosphorus load (i.e., the amount of phosphorus entering a lake) are highly variable depending on the lake's watershed, nutrient composition and depth.

- Curly-leaf pondweed can also provide benefits to the ecosystem. In highly degraded or otherwise turbid sites where other plants cannot survive, curly-leaf pondweed may provide essential ecosystem services (e.g., food, habitat, spawning substrate) for native animals that would otherwise be unavailable.

Identification

Leaves: Submersed alternate leaves that are typically $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. The leaves are wavy, like lasagna noodles, and have a distinctly serrated edge. Young plants may have more flattened leaves but will still have visible serration along the leaf edge.

Flowers: Tiny, with four petal-like lobes, arranged in $\frac{1}{2}$ - to 1-inch-long spikes on stalks up to 3 inches long.

Reproductive structures: Short ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch), bur-like hardened turions.

Roots: Fibrous from slender rhizomes.

Similar species: Many native *Potamogeton* species are native to Wisconsin; lookalikes include Richardson's pondweed (*Potamogeton richardsonii*) and white-stemmed pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*).

Distribution

See the reported locations of [curly-leaf pondweed](#) in Wisconsin.

Do you know of other populations? Please send us a report.

Control

Prevention: The best way to keep a lake free of curly-leaf pondweed is to prevent its establishment. Wisconsin's invasive species law prohibits the transport of aquatic plants, live animals and water from a waterbody, with some exceptions for bait.

- Before leaving the boat launch, conduct the following actions required by law:
 - Inspect and remove aquatic plants and animals from boats and equipment.
 - Drain all water from the boat and equipment.
- Before entering another waterbody
 - Spray boat and equipment with high-pressure hot water, or
 - Allow the boat and equipment to dry out of water for at least five days.

Mechanical: Mechanical harvesting will not eradicate curly-leaf pondweed, but it can help mitigate recreational and navigational impairments for a single season. Harvesting will also remove plant biomass from the waterbody, which eliminates the phosphorus stored in the plants