

Bladderwort Species Comparison Chart

BLADDERWORT SPECIES	RELATIVE STEM LENGTH	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF DESCRIPTION	FLOWERS	BLADDERS
Common bladderwort (<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>)	Long (up to 3 meters)	The leaf arrangement is alternate , but leaves may be divided in such a way that they <i>appear</i> to occur in pairs, or lopsided whorls. The leaves are moderately to tightly arranged, giving the plant a coarse appearance .	Finely divided leaves are thread-like (round in cross-section). Leaves are typically paler and greener toward the growing tip.	Yellow snapdragon-like flowers emerge on flower stalks at the surface. There may be 4-20 flowers per stalk.	Bladders are attached along the edges of the divided leaves . Young bladders near the growing tip are transparent and tinted pale green. Bladders become darker and less transparent as they age.
Floating bladderwort (<i>Utricularia radiata</i>)	Medium (up to 1 meter)	The leaf arrangement is alternate , but leaves may be divided in such a way that they <i>appear</i> to occur in pairs, or lopsided whorls. The leaves are moderately to tightly arranged, but much finer than common bladderwort giving the plant a delicate appearance .	Finely divided submerged leaves are thread-like (round in cross-section) and much finer than leaves of common bladderwort .	Yellow snapdragon-like flowers emerge from a slender stalk, ascending from the center of a whorl of specialized, inflated branches that act like a float.	Bladders are attached along the edges of the divided leaves . Bladders are generally transparent with a pale green tint.
Large purple bladderwort (<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>)	Medium (up to 1 meter)	The leaves are arranged in strict whorls . The whorls are openly spaced along the stem. The whorls at the growing tip curl upward to form a distinctive bird cage-like structure.	Finely divided leaves are thread-like (round in cross-section).	Pale purple snapdragon-like flowers emerge on slender flower stalks at the surface, often several flowers per stalk.	Tiny transparent bladders are attached to the tips of the divided leaves .
Northern bladderwort (<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>)	Short (less than 0.5 meters)	The leaves are alternately arranged in a tight radiating (whorl-like) pattern along the stem.	Finely divided leaves are flattened and serrated .	Yellow snapdragon-like flowers emerge on flower stalks at the surface.	Bladders occur on separate, leafless stems .