

WHITE-STEM PONDWEED

Potamogeton praelongus

NATIVE TO MAINE

Habitat: White-stem pondweed grows in the submersed plant community of lakes and streams. This species is usually found in the colder, deeper portions of the littoral zone, in moderately fertile substrates.

Description: White-stem pondweed is an aquatic perennial with submersed leaves only. The leaves are large (8 to 30 cm long and 1 to 4 cm wide) and lance to oval shaped. The leaf margins fold toward each other at the tip, resembling the bow of a boat. When pressed to flatten, the tip appears notched. The leaves are alternately arranged, clasping to the stems at the base, with 3 to 5 strong veins and many weaker ones. The stems are pale green to whitish, slightly flattened, with a distinctive zig-zag appearance. Large, persistent, partially-fused stipules occur at the leaf axils. The flowers, followed by fruit, generally occur near the growing tips, and are densely arranged on cylindrical spikes. The small fruits are oval to egg shaped, with a prominent keel along a portion of the outer rim, ending in a blunt protrusion called a beak.



White-stem pondweed has submersed leaves only

US Range: White-stem pondweed is native to Maine and New England and occurs throughout much of the northern and western United States. White-stem pondweed hybridizes with *P. amplifolius* and *P. perfoliatus*.



Annual Cycle: White-stem pondweed is an aquatic perennial that propagates from seeds and creeping rhizomes. Plants die-back to the rhizomes as winter sets in. New growth sprouts from rhizomes and seeds as the water warms in the spring. Flowers, followed by fruits, occur in mid summer.

Value in the Aquatic Community: The leaves of white-stem pondweed offer shade, shelter and foraging opportunities for fish. Fruits are a valuable food for waterfowl.

Look Alikes: May be confused with other species of the *Potamogeton* genus including curly-leaf pondweed.

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED
LOOK ALIKES



White-stem pondweed is easily identified by its large leaves with bow-like tips, large persistent stipules, and zigzag stem