

# What Are These "Weeds"?

## Chautauqua Lake Native Aquatic Plants

### Why Are These Plants So Important?

That "weed" you see might be victim of mistaken identity. Several of our lake's vital native aquatic plants (pictured here) have invasive look-alikes (in red). Native aquatic plants, or macrophytes, enhance the aquatic ecosystem of Chautauqua Lake and provide critical resources to native fish and wildlife populations. As a producer, these species serve as food to many other species higher up in the food chain such as waterfowl, mammals and some fish species. These plants also produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. Native aquatic plants provide critical habitat for invertebrates and fish including refuge from predation and habitat in which to reproduce.

### Coontail-*Ceratophyllum demersum*

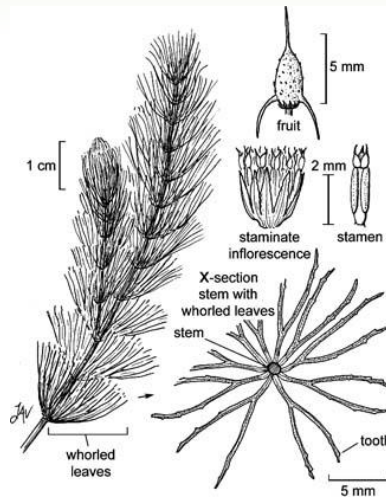


Photo © Center for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida

Looks Like: **Eurasian Water Milfoil**

### Northern Water Milfoil-*Myriophyllum sibiricum*

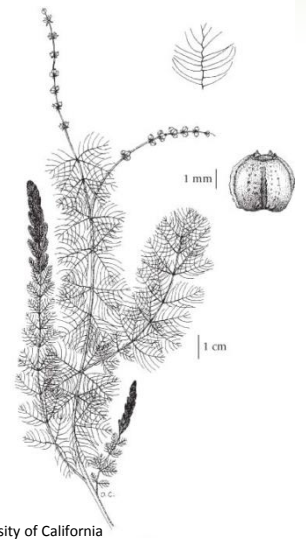


Photo © Regents of the University of California

Looks Like: **Eurasian Water Milfoil**

### Clasping-Leaf Pondweed-*Potamogeton perfoliatus*



Photo © Twan Leenders RTP1

Looks Like: **Curly Leaf Pondweed**

### White-stem Pondweed-*Potamogeton praelongus*

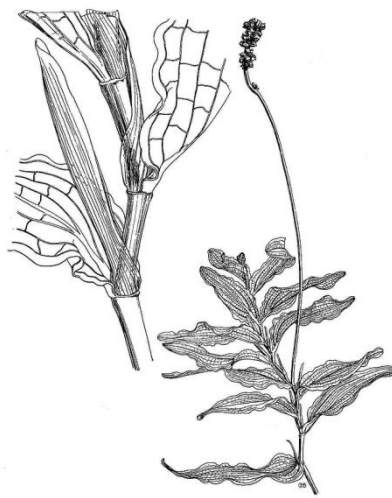


Photo © Center for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida

Looks Like: **Curly Leaf Pondweed**

### Slender Naiad-*Najas flexilis*

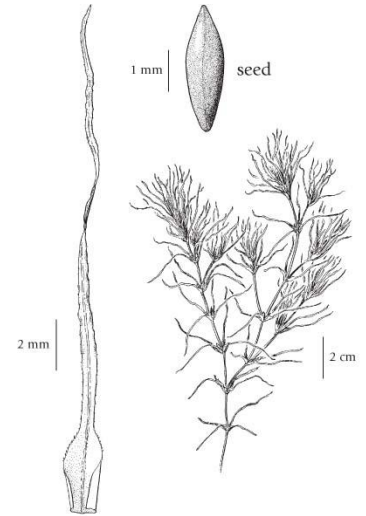


Photo © Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia

Looks Like: **Brittle Naiad**

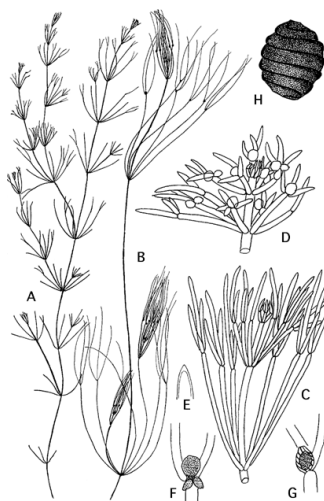
### Southern Naiad-*Najas guadalupensis*



Photo © Center for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida

Looks Like: **Brittle Naiad**

### Nitella-*Nitella flexilis*



Looks Like: **Starry Stonewort**

### Muskgrass-*Chara vulgaris*

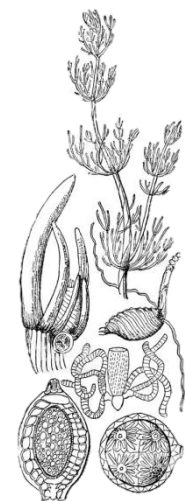


Photo © iStock

Looks Like: **Starry Stonewort**

### American Frog bit-*Limnobium spongia*

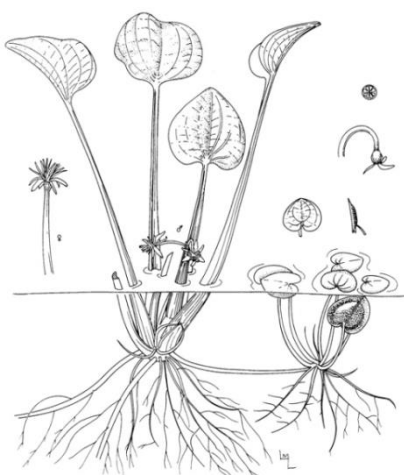


Photo © Center for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida

Looks Like: **European Frog-bit**

### Duckweed-*Lemna sp.*



Photo © Twan Leenders RTP1

Looks Like: **European Frog-bit**

### Common Waterweed-*Elodea canadensis*

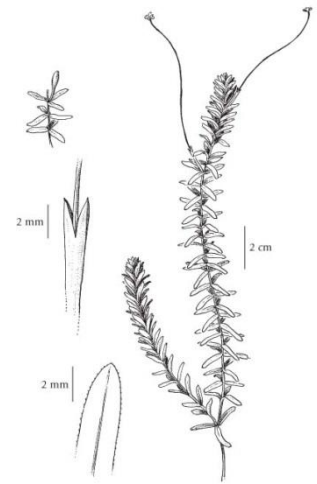


Photo © Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia

Looks Like: **Hydrilla**

\*Red text denotes invasive species that may be mistaken for its native look-alike in Chautauqua Lake.

This project is a collaboration between the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. Funding was provided from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, through the generous support of Senator Catharine Young. Chautauqua County provided support in the form of a pass-through grant to the Alliance.