

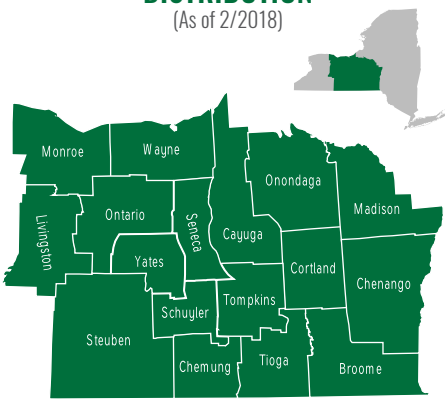
CURLY-LEAVED PONDWEED

Potamogeton crispus
Origin: Europe, Africa, and Australia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS
High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION
(As of 2/2018)



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Curly-leaved pondweed is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that can grow to about 5 m long. It has rigid, reddish-green, oblong leaves with finely toothed, wavy margins and blunt tips, which grow in an alternate arrangement. This species produces very small greenish-red flowers on a spike above the water surface. It also reproduces using overwintering buds, called turions.

HABITAT

Curly-leaved pondweed grows in a wide variety of environments, including shallow, deep, still, flowing, slightly brackish, or freshwater water up to a depth of about 6 m.

THREAT

This species is one of the first to grow in the spring and can grow quickly, allowing curly-leaved pondweed to outcompete native plants for light and space thereby reducing the biodiversity and value of aquatic habitat. Curly-leaved pondweed's senescence during midsummer can cause a critical loss of dissolved oxygen. The decomposition process can result in increased levels of phosphorous, which can lead to algal blooms. Dense infestations will also inhibit boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational activities.

MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body. This plant may be removed manually, provided all fragments and stem parts are also removed. Herbicides have been effective in controlling infestations.

REFERENCE - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/7/2017].

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

