

Aquatic Life Observed in Lake George

Created by Jaiden Edwardson; Lake Ecology Management Coordinator with the Lake George Improvement District

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Most Common Aquatic Plant Life

Please Note: There are additional, less common aquatic plant species observed in Lake George. If you are interested in learning more about those, please visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.



Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Description: Grows underwater with no roots; upper leaves may reach the surface; central hollow stem has stiff, dark-green leaves; plants may be long and sparse, but are often bushy near the tip, giving the plant a "coontail" or "Christmas tree" appearance.

Hints to identify: Often confused with watermilfoil, but coontail leaves are spiny and forked rather than feather-like.

Stonewort (*Nitella* sp.)

Description: An advanced form of algae. It may grow several feet long and resemble larger plants; light-green to bright-green in color; stemlike branches with whorls of leaves; grows entirely below the water surface.

Hints to identify: Resembles muskgrass but does NOT emit a strong musky odor when crushed; translucent stems and leaves appear to be filled with green "jello".





Bushy Pondweeds and Naiads (*Najas* spp.)

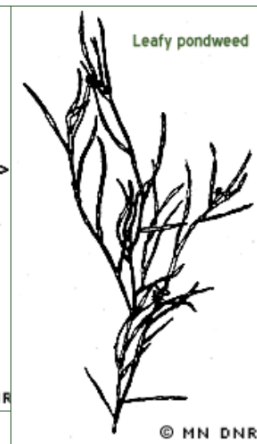
Description: Grow entirely below water surface; have long, waving stems in deep water and are dense and bushy in shallow water. These are annual plants which must start from seed each year.

Hints to identify: Leaves are tapered to a fine point with tiny "spines"; seeds are shiny and smooth. Bushy pondweed is sometimes confused with chara, but chara has a musky odor when crushed and bushy pondweed does not.

Narrow-leaf Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* *zosteriformes*, *Potamogeton* *foliosus*, *Potamogeton* *pectinatus*)

Description: Grow below water surface; are firmly rooted; have branched, slender stems; have grasslike, narrow leaves; may have flowers or seeds extending above water surface; are limp when out of the water.

Hints to identify: Most narrow-leaf pondweeds have no floating leaves----it is only the seeds of some types that reach or extend above the surface. Sago pondweed has stiff, threadlike leaves that appear bushy and are alternately arranged on one stem; spreading leaves in the water resemble a fan; small, pebble-sized fruits are spaced on the stem and emerge from the water.





Broad-leaf Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.)

Description: Leaves 2 to 8 inches long; large-leaf and claspingleaf pondweeds grow below the water surface, except for the flowering stalk; floating-leaf pondweed grows below the water surface, except for their flowering stalk and large, floating leaves; all species have thin and delicate submerged leaves, tough stems that are firmly rooted, and a stiff appearance when out of the water.

Hints to identify: Leaves alternate along the stem. Often grow in patches or beds; have small seed heads crowded into spikes, often sticking up above water from June through August. Floating-leaf pondweed---Floating leaves are slightly heart-shaped. Large-leaf pondweed----Floating leaves are oval-shaped; submerged leaves are large and wavy; plants are seldom branched. Claspingleaf pondweed----Leaves are wide and wavy with a broad base that clasps the stem; plant often branches toward tip; often confused with curlyleaf pondweed, which has small "teeth" along leaf edges (see page 31), but claspingleaf pondweed has no "teeth" on leaf edges.

Wild Celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*)

Description: Leaves are ribbon-like, dark-green, and grow below the water surface; rooted in mud; in late summer, produces a small, whitish-yellow flower, supported by a coiled stalk; often grows in beds amid pondweeds and other submerged plants.

Hints to identify: Unbranched leaves extending from the lake bottom to the water surface; flowers (and occasionally some leaves) float on the surface; leaves are attached to a horizontal central stem right above lake bottom.



Aquatic Invasive Plant Species



Figure 1: Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)



Figure 3: Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP)

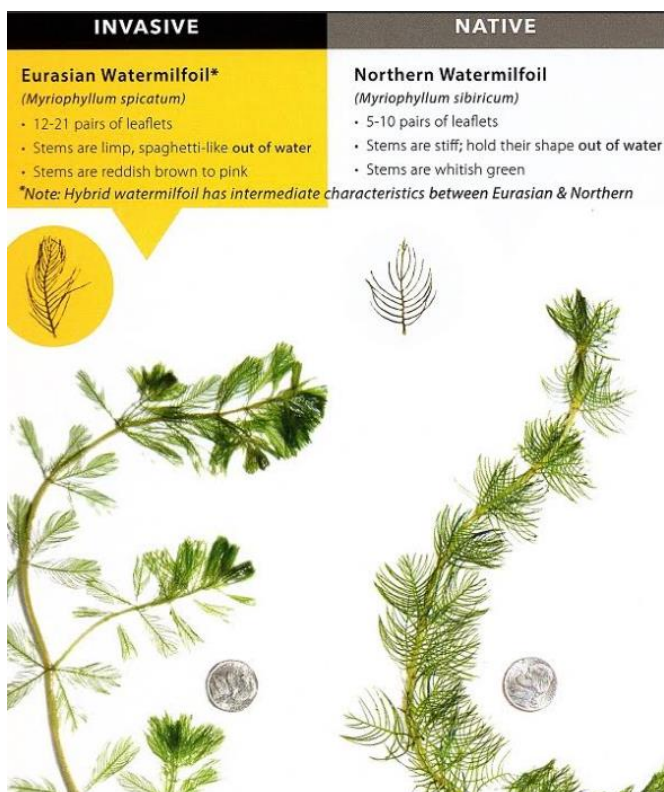


Figure 2: Invasive vs. Native watermilfoil

Common Fish Species

black bullhead	hybrid sunfish
black crappie	largemouth bass
bluegill	northern pike
bowfin (dogfish)	pumpkinseed
common carp	yellow bullhead
green sunfish	yellow perch

Aquatic Invasive Plant Species Treatment Overview

*EWM = Eurasian
Watermilfoil*

CLP = Curlyleaf Pondweed

*W = Whole Lake Treatment
(i.e. fluridone treatment)*

*P = Partial treatment (spot
treatments in select
locations in the lake – most
common)*

N = No treatment conducted

*Please Note: This
information is current as of
October 2025 from the
Minnesota DNR's PowerPoint*

titled 'Lake George 2025 Point Intercept and Management' and presented by Garrett Miller and April Londo.

Date	Treatment [W, P, N]	Target Species	Total Acres Treated	Herbicide
JUL 2010	P	EWM	29.5	2,4-D
MAY 2012	N	-	-	-
JUN 2012	P	EWM	32.5	2,4-D
JUN 6 2013	P	CLP	43	Endothall
JUL 2013	P	EWM	4.1	2,4-D
MAY 2014	P	CLP	16	Endothall
JUL 2014	P	EWM	34	2,4-D
MAY 2015	P	CLP	5.7	Endothall
JUN 2015	P	EWM	50	2,4-D
JUN 2016	P	EWM & CLP	58.6	2,4-D & Endothall
MAY 2017	P	CLP	29	Endothall
JUN 2017	P	EWM	40.1	2,4-D
JUN 2018	P	EWM	56.7	2,4-D
MAY 2019	P	CLP	25.2	Diquat
MAY 2020	P	CLP	47	Diquat
MAY 2021	P	CLP	28	Diquat
MAY 2022	P	EWM	37.7	Diquat
MAY 2023	P	EWM	39.81	Diquat
MAY 2024	P	EWM	37.1	Diquat?
MAY 2025	P	EWM	32.2	Diquat

Point Intercept Results: Native Plants (FOO)

Common Name	2018 (%)	2019 (%)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)	2022 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)	2025 (%)
Coontail	40	35	35	36	34	47	48	34
Muskgrass/Stonewort	53	49	65	67	55	65	60	70
Naiad	20	24	20	23	20	30	6	5
Leafy pondweed	-	3	-	16	10	15	1	20
Variable-leaf pondweed	14	11	20	15	25	13	14	24
Clasping-leaf pondweed	6	6	11	16	20	6	9	8
Flat-stem pondweed	-	-	5	25	31	20	26	41
Water celery	19	20	20	10	17	10	29	20

(FOO = the percentage of points with a specific plant species)

Please Note: This information is current as of October 2025 from the Minnesota DNR's PowerPoint titled 'Lake George 2025 Point Intercept and Management' and presented by Garrett Miller and April Londo.

Additional Lake Information

ID: 02009100

County: [Anoka](#)

Near: Saint Francis (Anoka)

Border water: No

[Sentinel Lake](#): No

Size and depth

Area: 488.63 acres

Littoral Area: 391 acres

Shore length: 3.51 miles

Mean depth: 5 feet

Maximum depth: 32 feet

Citations

George (02009100). Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (n.d.).
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=02009100>

Londo, A., & Miller, G. (2025, October). *Lake George 2025 Point Intercept and Management*. *Lake George Conservation Club Meeting*. Oak Grove; The Refuge Golf Club.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (2007, July 9). *Minnesota Biological Survey List of Plant Species Observed at George Lake*. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/water/lakes/aquatic_plant_reports/02009100_1384.pdf