

## Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*



**W**ater hyacinth is a floating plant that grows in all types of freshwater habitats. They have showy, lavender flowers and leaves which are rounded and leathery, attached to spongy, inflated stalks.

## *Salvinia minima*



**Salvinia** plants are floating ferns. There are 10 species of *Salvinia* in the world, none of which are native to the United States. This species is about 3/4 inch in width. It occurs in still waters having high organic content.

**W**ater fern has joined oval **leaves**. Its leaf surfaces are covered with stiff hairs. Water fern has **root-like** structures which are actually modified fronds.

## Water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*

**W**ater lettuce is a floating plant that occurs in lakes, rivers, and canals, occasionally forming large dense mats. It has very thick leaves which are light dull green, hairy and rigid.



## Torpedo grass (can also occur on land) *Panicum repens*



**T**orpedo grass is a **NON-NATIVE** grass. **rhizomes** extensive, runner tips sharp-pointed and torpedo-shaped; **stems** rigid, leaning at base, to 2 1/2 ft. tall; **leaf blades** narrow, linear, stiffly ascending, to 10 in. long, to 1/4 in. wide, grayish-green, thin hairs on upper surface; **sheaths** smooth; **inflorescence** 3-9 in. long, with few to many branches, branches open and stiffly ascending; **spikelets** stalked, white, with yellow flower parts, erect along branches; **seeds** smooth, mostly white.

**Alligator weed** (can also occur on land)  
*Alternanthera philoxeroides*



*Alternanthera philoxeroides*  
1996 Kerry Dressler



Alligator weed  
*Alternanthera philoxeroides*  
Photo by Vic Bamey  
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**Alligator weed** is an emersed plant. It can grow in a variety of habitats, including dry land, but is usually found in water. It may form sprawling mats over the water or along shorelines.

**Alligator weed stems** are long, branched, and hollow. **Leaves** are simple, elliptic, and have smooth margins. Leaves are opposite. The whitish papery **flowers** grow on stalks. Alligator weed flowers during the warm months.

**Common Reed** *Phragmites australis*

**C**ommon reed is a large, perennial grass found in wetlands throughout temperate and tropical regions of the world. Growing 6-15 feet tall, it forms extensive stands, choking out native vegetation.

Leaves of reed grow alternately along the top half of the stem. Leaves are flat and strap-like; an inch or more wide, tapering to a point. Common reed has a large, silky inflorescence that grows at the tops of stems.



*Phragmites australis*  
Photo by Shirley Denton

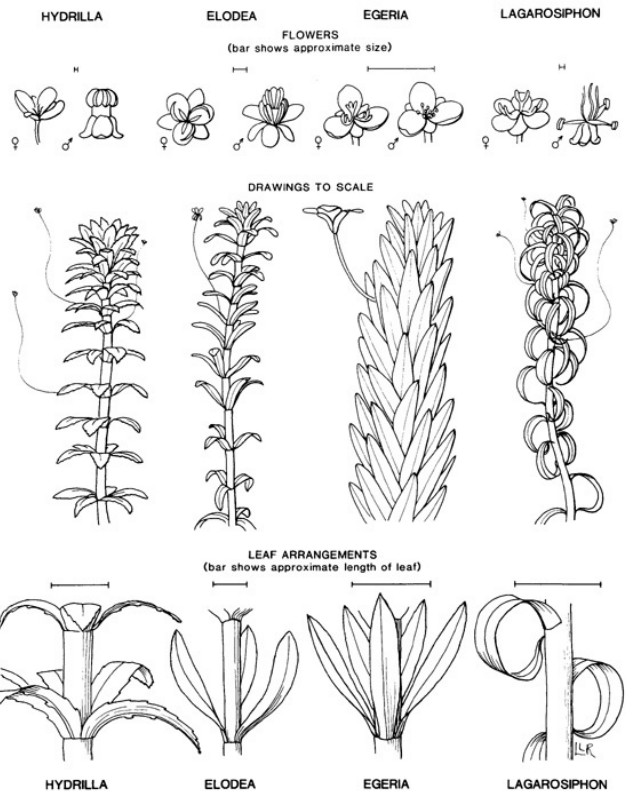
# Hydrilla verticillata



**H**ydrilla is a submersed plant, but can grow to the surface and form dense mats. It may be found in all types of water bodies.

**H**ydrilla stems are slender, branched and up to 25 feet long. The leaves are strap-like and pointed and grow in whorls of 4 to 8 around the stem.

*Hydrilla verticillata* leaves are in whorls of 4 to 8 around the stem



# Eurasian watermilfoil

*Myriophyllum spicatum*

**E**urasian water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. It is the only non-native milfoil in Wisconsin. Like the native milfoils, the Eurasian variety has slender stems whorled by submersed feathery leaves and tiny flowers produced above the water surface. The flowers are located in the axils of the floral bracts, and are either four-petaled or without petals. The leaves are threadlike, typically uniform in diameter, and aggregated into a submersed terminal spike. The stem thickens below the inflorescence and doubles its width further down, often curving to lie parallel with the water surface. The fruits are four-jointed nut-like bodies. Without flowers or fruits, Eurasian water milfoil is nearly impossible to distinguish from Northern water milfoil. Eurasian water milfoil has 9-21 pairs of leaflets per leaf, while Northern milfoil typically has 7-11 pairs of leaflets. Coontail is often mistaken for the milfoils, but does not have individual leaflets.

