





COMMON WATERWEED

Elodea canadensis

Habitat Preference

Shallow lakes, ponds, pools, ditches and streams with slow moving water. Tends to prefer loamy soil, slow-moving water with high Nitrogen and Phosphorus concentrations.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Submersed, small leaves made up of one segment. Leaves occur in whorls of 3 at stem nodes and crowd at the top.

Flowers

White flower with 3 petals, dry fruit splits open when ripe, seed produced in a cylindrical capsule containing many seeds.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Highly abundant in Lake Champlain, waterweed provides food for waterfowl, beavers, and muskrats. One of the few aquatic plants that provides underwater habitat during the winter months.
- Often overwinters as an evergreen plant. Photosynthesis continues at a reduced rate under ice.
- Provides habitat for many aquatic invertebrates as well as cover for young fish and amphibians (also provides cover during winter months).



Scan to learn more
about native
aquatic plants in
Lake Champlain!



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