





COMMON DUCKWEED

Lemna minor

Habitat Preference

Found on the surface of quiet waters of lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, swales, sloughs and slow-moving streams. Requires water high in nutrients.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Single, ovular 1-8 millimeter long leaves, arranged as one, two, three, or four leaves atop a threadlike root.

Reproduction

Rarely produces flowers; usually reproduces asexually through budding from their turions.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Important food source for aquatic waterfowl and fish.
- Research using duckweed to synthesize insulin and other commercially valuable proteins.
- Surface clusters of duckweed provide shade for some fish and other invertebrates. Dense clusters of duckweed can prevent excessive mosquito breeding.



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UNDER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (LC06A007070) TO NEWPCC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.

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