





LITTLE FLOATING-HEART

Nymphoides cordata

Habitat Preference

Found in freshwater ponds, and lakes, as well as in slow-moving rivers and streams.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Heart to oval shaped floating leaves, 3-7 centimeters with reddish-purple tinge, alternate arrangement (1 leaf per node).

Flowers

5 petals per flower, white petals with yellow center; fruit splits open when ripe with flattened seed that has tiny hairs which allow it to float or cling to animal fur.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Submerged portions provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.).
- Decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called "detritus") for many aquatic invertebrates.



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about native
aquatic plants in
Lake Champlain!



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