





NORTHERN WILD RICE

Zizania palustris

Habitat Preference

Brackish marshes and flats, fresh tidal marshes, in lakes or ponds, rivers or streams and along the shores of rivers or lakes.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Leaves flat, hairless, and rough textured around the edge. Leaf blades strap-like (3-4 feet long) arranged alternately and attached basally.

Flower

2 pairs of bracts straw colored to purple. Attached to branches rather than to the main axis.

Fruit

Common for them to abort their fruit, turn tan at maturity. Narrowly oblong seeds that turn dark brown at maturity.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Valued food source and nesting habitat for waterfowl.
- Rich source of riboflavin and niacin, making it a nutritious food for wildlife and humans alike.
- Tends to grow further away from the shore than other aquatic grasses, in depths of up to five feet, providing habitat for small fish and microorganisms.



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

