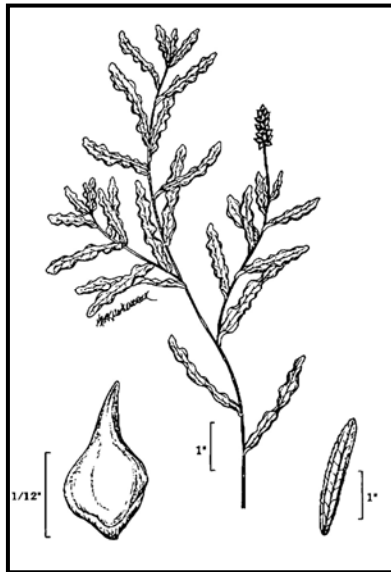


CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Curly Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Also called: Curly-leaved Pondweed



Family name: Pondweed family (Potamogetonaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

General: Submerged aquatic perennial reaching 1 to 2.5 feet in length. Stems are branched and somewhat flattened.

Leaves: Alternate, reddish-green, stemless, finely toothed, lance-shaped with wavy edges. Leaves are 1-3 inches long and 0.2-0.5 inches wide.

Flowers: Tiny, with 4 petal-like lobes on stalked spikes up to 1 inch long. Appearing in May through October.

Fruit: Tiny, brown, oval. Ripening from spring through autumn.

Look-alikes: Grassy or variable pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*) is a native species that usually does not have leaves with wavy edges.

Habitat: Lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, salt marshes. Curly pondweed tolerates a wide range of growing conditions including shade, salinity, and low temperatures, and prefers high nutrient or alkaline water.

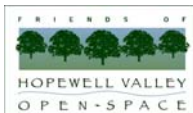
Threats to native habitats: Curly pondweed can form dense mats that exclude native plants. Decomposition of the mats reduce oxygen levels in the water. It can also infest waterways so they are impassable for recreational and commercial use.



NJ Status: Curly pondweed is widespread. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Not found.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specieId=88>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potamogeton_crispus
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 136.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

