

# CURLYLEAF PONDWEED

*Potamogeton crispus*



Curlyleaf Pondweed Leaves

Stefan Lefnaer-Wikipedia Commons



Infestation of Curlyleaf Pondweed

Chris Evans University of Illinois



Curlyleaf Turion Sprout

Frank Koshere



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

## IDENTIFICATION

### LIFE CYCLE:

Aquatic perennial

### LEAVES:

Sessile; alternate; oblong; wavy (like lasagna noodles) with tiny, serrated edges. 2-3 inches long. Green to reddish brown in color.

### FLOWER:

Tiny; cream to brown; 4 petal-like lobes per flower; up to 10 flowers a spike.

### STEMS:

Slightly flattened; branched; can grow up to 3 ft.

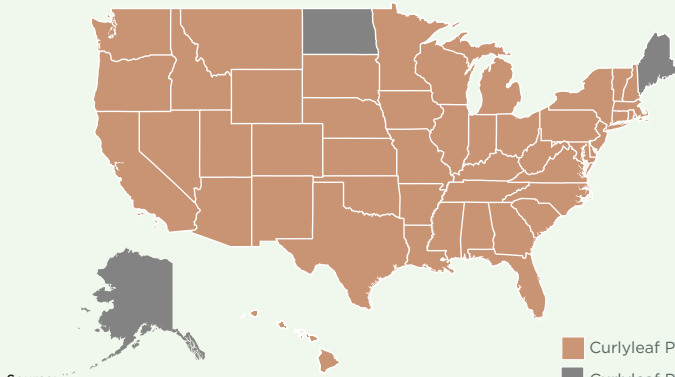
### SEED/FRUIT:

Seeds are 1/5 inch long; flat with pointed beak.

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit

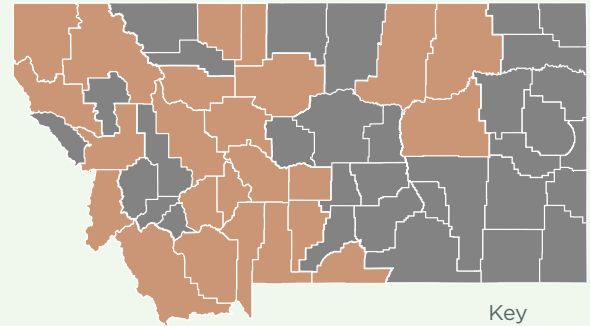
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

# DISTRIBUTION



Source:  
USGS NAS; May 2023

Key  
■ Curlyleaf Pondweed Invasive  
■ Curlyleaf Pondweed Not Present



Source:  
MT Natural Heritage Program,  
observation data; May 2023

Key  
■ Curlyleaf Pondweed Invasive  
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## HABITAT:

Prefers to be submerged in alkaline water 3-10 feet deep. Tolerant of low light and low water temperatures. Can be an indicator of eutrophic conditions.

## NATIVE TO:

Eurasia, Africa, Australia

## PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Reproduces via turions that can be spread to other water bodies by plant matter attached to equipment. Turions overwinter under the ice and emerge in early spring before native species. It is important to clean, drain, dry boats, waders, boots, and all angling gear before entering another water body to prevent the spread of these turions.

## IMPACTS:

Creates dense mats that hinder recreation, outcompete native aquatic plants, and clog water pipes. Can also deplete nutrients, which impacts fisheries and causes algal blooms.

## IN MONTANA:

Listed as a Priority 2B noxious weed.

Sources:  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, Montana State University,  
Minnesota Dept. Of Natural Resources, Montana State University Extension

## NATIVE LOOKALIKES:

**Richardson's Pondweed** *Potamogeton richardsonii*  
**White-stem Pondweed** *Potamogeton praelongus*  
also have alternate, wavy leaves, but they are not serrated and are more ovular in shape than curlyleaf pondweed.



Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest



Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at  
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>  
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440