
Gerry Lake Species Identification

8/24/2022

Town of Oxford
Chenango County, NY

On the twenty fourth of August, Jennifer Kelly, Jacob Welsh and Riley Krupitza visited Gerry Lake in hopes to identify the various types of vegetation throughout the lake.

EEL GRASS:
(*Zostera L.*)

- **Native** species & very popular throughout Chenango County
- Leaves can be up to **6 feet** long
- Primary food source for waterfowl
- Provide good cover and feeding opportunities for small fish



COONTAIL:

(Ceratophyllum demersum)

- **Native** submersed plant
- Can be found attached to sediment or free floating
- Waterfowl, mallards, bufflehead, etc. eat the foliage and fruit
- Provides shelter and foraging opportunities for fish



WHITE WATER LILY:

(Nymphaea odorata)

- **Native** emergent plant
- Grows in waters of less than **6 feet**
- Provides seeds for waterfowl
- Deer, muskrat, beaver, etc. eat the plant's rhizomes
- Provide shade for fish



WATERSHIELD:

(Brasenia schreberi)

- Very popular **native** plant in Chenango County
- Provides shade and habitat for fish



MUSK GRASS:

(Chara spp.)

- **Native** submerged algae
- Also known as skunk grass due to its “skunky” odor
- Consumed by many ducks
- Provides habitat and shelter for fish



SOUTHERN NAIAD:

(Najas guadalupanis)

- **Native** submerged plant
- Can grow in depths up to 10 feet deep
- Great food source for waterfowl
- Provides habitat for fish, insects, and amphibians



BULRUSH:

(Scirpoides holoschoenus)

- **Native** emergent plant
- Habitat for birds and small fish
- Herbicides is a predominant way to eradicate bulrush



BUTTONBUSH:

(Cephalanthus occidentalis)

- **Native** ornamental species
- Often found on banks
- Thrives in very wet soil
- Food source for waterfowl and other birds



LONG-LEAF PONDWEED:

(Potamogeton nodosus)

- **Native** emergent plant
- Can be up to 6 feet long
- Waterfowl, beaver, muskrat, and deer graze on the fruit
- Flowering occurs in early summer



COMMON ARROWHEAD:

(Sagittaria latifolia)

- Very popular native species
- Provides habitat for fish and birds



WHITEHEAD BOGBUTTON

(Lachnocaulon anceps)

- **Non-native** perennial herb
- Can grow up to 2 feet long
- Can provide habitat for invertebrates



LARGE-LEAF PONDWEED:

(Potamogeton amplifolius)

- **Native** submerged plant
- Can grow in several meters of water
- Offers habitat for fish
- Provides food for waterfowl



WATER PURSLANE:

(Ludwigia palustris)

- **Native** mat-forming plant
- Often found in shallow water and along shores
- Food source for birds, mammals, and insects



BLADDERWORT:

(Utricularia sp.)

- **Native**
- Occurs at or below the surface of the water
- Offers shade, habitat, and foraging opportunities for fish



OTHER FINDINGS

Emerged lily pad root systems:

- Several root systems from the lily pads were observed at the surface.
- It is believed that this is due to the recent herbicide applications.
- Mechanical removal would be the recommended form of eradication.

