

ATLANTIC
COASTALPLAIN
FLORA

Spotted Pondweed

Potamogeton pulcher

STATUS

Not Listed



Not Listed



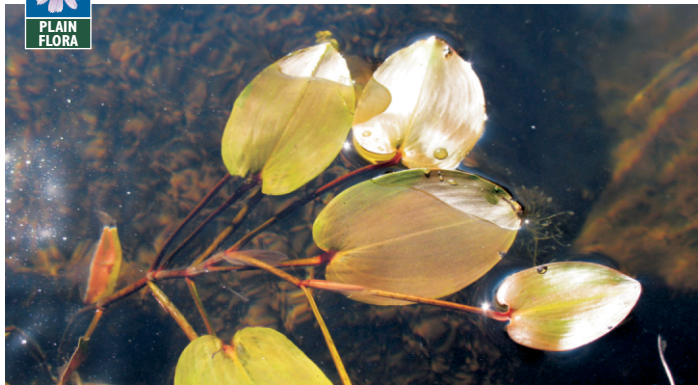
Not Listed



Vulnerable



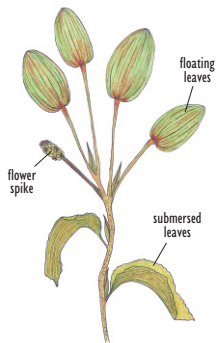
Not Listed



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Species Description

Spotted Pondweed is an aquatic plant. It has a green stem with black spots which are more prominent on the lower stem and two types of leaves. Floating leaves are leathery, oval or heart-shaped, 2-8 cm long, 1.5-5 cm wide and have 15-19 veins. Submersed leaves are narrow and green with wavy edges, 8-15 cm long, 1-3 cm wide and have 7-19 veins. Its flowers are cylindrical spikes (2-4 cm long) situated at the top of a 5-12 cm long flower stalk (peduncle).



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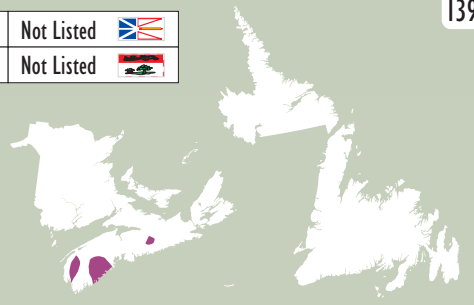
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Currently known to occur on 18 lakes in Nova Scotia.



Habitat

Spotted Pondweed is generally observed in Nova Scotia in stillwater or slow-flowing areas on clean, low-nutrient freshwater lakes. It is often found with species such as Largeleaf Pondweed, Pickerel-weed or Bladderwort species in areas with muddy bottoms that are 10 cm to 2 m in depth. There is still much to learn about the habitat requirements of this species.

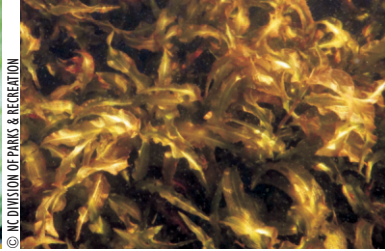
Spotted Pondweed can be observed on low-nutrient, freshwater lakes in calm or slow-flowing sections. Look for its flower spikes from June to August.

Interesting Points

- Its name comes from the black spots on its stem.
- Outside of Nova Scotia, the only other record for this species is a historical collection from Lake Erie.
- This plant is quite rare and considered to be imperilled in many US states.



Flower spike



Submersed leaves



Spotted stem

Similar Species

Largeleaf Pondweed

(*Potamogeton amplifolius*):
Floating leaves uncommon and when present not heart-shaped. Submersed leaves longer and wider (4-6 cm), strongly arching, and with 20-50 veins.



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Spotted Pondweed

Threats to Survival

- Nutrient enrichment from activities including mink farming, aquaculture operations, and defective septic systems.
- Habitat destruction or degradation from lakeshore infilling, pond or wetland drainage, and shoreline vegetation removal.
- Increase in sedimentation from deforestation and shoreline development.
- Spread of alien invasive species such as Yellow Floating-heart.



Green algal bloom

How You Can Help 11 of 13

Water Quality Part I. Run-off that can increase lake nutrient levels is a significant threat to APCF and their habitat. Agricultural operators can ensure that their operations do not impact water quality by adopting nutrient management strategies that prevent fertilizers and manures from entering water bodies. Adopting monitoring efforts will ensure changes in water quality are detected quickly and problems are addressed promptly.



ACPF Water Quality Monitoring

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust: nature@nsnt.ca, MTRI: info@merseytobeatic.ca