

Invasive Species Alert

Curly-leaf Pondweed

(*Potamogeton crispus*)

*Established in Michigan *

Identification:

- Leaves are dark green with wavy, serrated margins
- Submersed, perennial herb with thick roots
- Can reach 2 meters in length
- Flowering spike grows above water's surface
- Starts growing in fall and winter, flowers in late spring, dies in late July



Photo: Frank Koshere

Habitat: Curly-leaf pondweed inhabits ponds, lakes, and slow moving streams. Brackish, alkaline, or eutrophic conditions less than 3 meters in depth are preferable, although it can grow in waters up to 12 meters deep.

Native Range: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia

U.S. Distribution: Unfortunately, curly-leaf pondweed has established itself in all of the continental U.S. except for Maine and South Carolina.

Local Concern: As with many invasive species, curly-leaf pondweed out-competes native aquatic plant species and reduces diversity. Dense colonies can hinder fish movement as well as recreational activity.



Photo: Frank Koshere

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