

Coontail

Ceratophyllum demersum

Minnesota C-Value: 2
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Native



Leaves whorled



Leaves forked

Leaves: Whorls of 5-12 evergreen leaves, stiff and forked. Threadlike divisions occur in the leaves with teeth on one side. Leaves denser towards tip.

Stems: Submergent plant that lacks true roots, but modified leaves may sometimes anchor the plant. Stems pinkish to yellow-green.

Flowers and fruit: A unisexual plant, with most reproduction occurring through fragmentation of the stem. Fruit is a small nutlet.

Plant communities: Shallow open water, marshes, ponds, lakes, ditches, backwaters.

Comments: Submergent perennial also known as common hornwort. Forms dense stands underwater. Similar submergent plants have alternate branching (*Utricularia* sp.) or whorled branching with pinate compound leaves (*Myriophyllum* sp.).