

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Potamogeton crispus

WHAT IS IT?

This underwater plant usually grows in lake water 3 to 10 feet deep. Its wavy leaves with fine-toothed edges make it appear “crispy.” It was accidentally introduced when common carp were stocked in North America.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

This invader grows well in cold temperatures, even under ice. It begins early in the spring, and shades out native plants, forming dense mats that make it tough to boat or swim. When curly-leaf pondweed dies back in mid-summer it releases nutrients, which can cause algal blooms and other problems. It's easily spread by boats and trailers.

MANAGEMENT

- Physical removal (DNR permit required except for raking and hand-cutting)
- Aquatic herbicides (with DNR permit only)

WILD!

This plant peaks by Memorial Day, often dying back by the 4th of July!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Main photo: V. Ramey, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida

Inset photo: F. Koshere, WI DNR

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