

TWELVE DOMINANT NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS IN THE KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED

Arrowhead

Five species in our watershed grow near shorelines in shallow water. Emergent stalks topped with large arrow-shaped leaves. Small white flowers with 3 petals grow along the stalks.



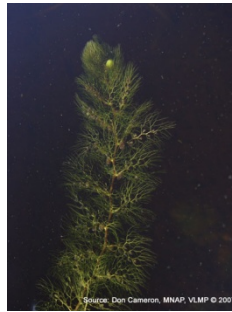
Eel grass

Rooted at the bottom in shallow water with long, thin, strap-shaped leaves that float just below the surface trailing with the current. Similar to Floating bur-reed except the latter leaves float on top of the surface.



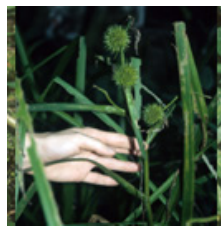
Bladderwort species

There are three bladderwort species found in our watershed: Common, Creeping, and Purple bladderworts. Bladderworts are typically free-floating at or just below the water surface, or snagged along the bottom. Their alternate leaves are forked and branched, with tiny bladders scattered throughout. They are easily confused with invasive milfoils, but the latter are rooted at the bottom and have more feather-like, opposite leaves with no bladders.



Bur-reed species

Common (American), Floating, and Narrowleaf bur-reed are found in our watershed. Bur-reeds are sedges with long narrow leaves, either erect or floating. They can be found at the waters' edge and in depths to four feet. The bulbs, or burs, are clusters of tiny pale-green or white flowers.



Little floating-heart

The small (1.5" wide) heart-shaped leaves are each attached to a single slender stem and are green to reddish-purple. The tiny white flowers have five petals and the tuberous roots look like tiny bunches of bananas.



Pickerelweed

Often in dense colonies, pickerel weed can grow to three feet tall. The smooth stout stem has a single large arrow-shaped basal leaf. Small violet flowers form a terminal spike and bloom throughout the summer.



Pipewort

Found in shallow waters, pipewort has a long, slim stalk with small, button-like, white flowers.



Floating-leaf pondweed,

Floating-leaf pondweed's oval leaves are dark-green and leathery, with longitudinal veins, pointed tips and a rounded base. The 3-6 foot stems are minimally branched and have a discolored flexible joint near the top of the leaf stalk. The spiked yellowish flowers can be seen all summer.



Spatterdock

Spatterdock (aka Cow Lily) can grow in depths to six feet and has large elongated heart-shaped leaves with rounded lobes. The leaf notch is generally less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the midrib. The ball-shaped yellow flowers can bloom all summer long.



Source: Roberta Hill, VLMP © 2007

Fragrant waterlily

Fragrant waterlily (aka White waterlily) has a fairly large roundish leaf with a thin pie-shaped notch extending to the stem. The leaves are green above and reddish below. The large fragrant white flowers grow on their own separate stalk.



Source: Don Cameron, MNAP, VLMP © 2007

Water shield

Water shield's football-shaped leathery leaves are green above and reddish-purple below. Each leaf is centrally attached to a long elastic loosely-branched stem. The underside of the leaf is coated with a jelly-like mucous. Small maroon flowers grow on stalks just above the water surface.



Waterweed species

Both Common and Slender waterweeds experience boom and bust cycles in our watershed. Either may be common or absent in a given year. Waterweeds' slender stems can be three feet long, and have small lance-shaped serrated leaves in whorls of three. The stems are often branched and can form tangled colonies. The small flowers are white and have three petals. Waterweed can be confused with the invasive Hydrilla (8 leaves/whorl).

