

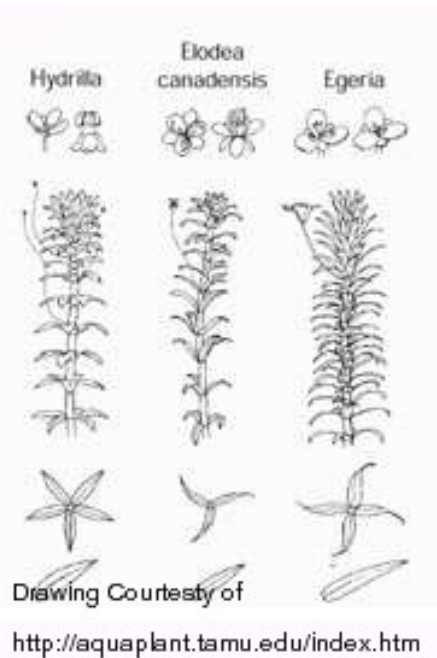
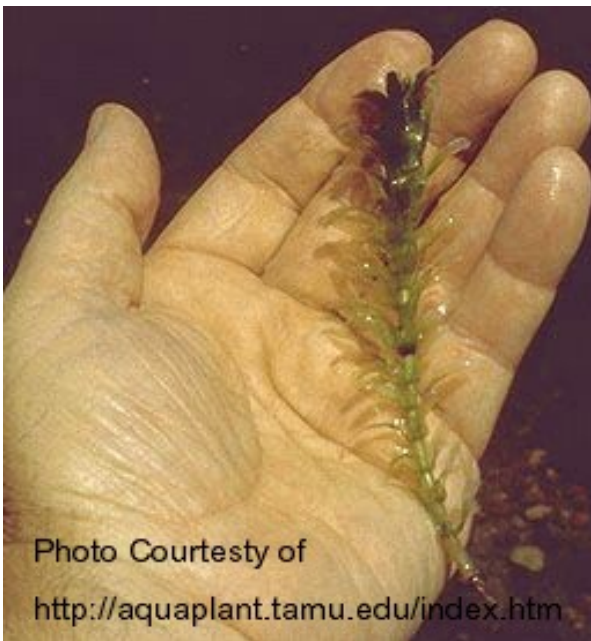
# Beneficial Native Aquatic Plants of Texas

## Coontail, Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*



Hornwort is also commonly sold in aquarium stores. It's a perennial plant that grows submerged floating.

## Anacaris, Elodea *Elodea canadensis*



Anacaris is also commonly sold in aquarium stores. In the wild, Anacaris (*Elodea*), is easily mistaken for the non-native plants Hydrilla and Egeria. Note that Elodea has 3 leaf whorls and Hydrilla and Egeria have 4-6 leaf whorls. It's a perennial plant that grows submerged floating or rooted. It reproduces from fragments.

**Fanwort, Cabomba**  
*Cabomba caroliniana*



Photo Courtesy of <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/index.htm>

Cabomba is also commonly sold in aquarium stores. It's a perennial plant that grows submerged floating.

**Southern Naiad, Bushy Pondweed**  
*Najas guadalupensis*



Photo Courtesy of  
<http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/index.htm>

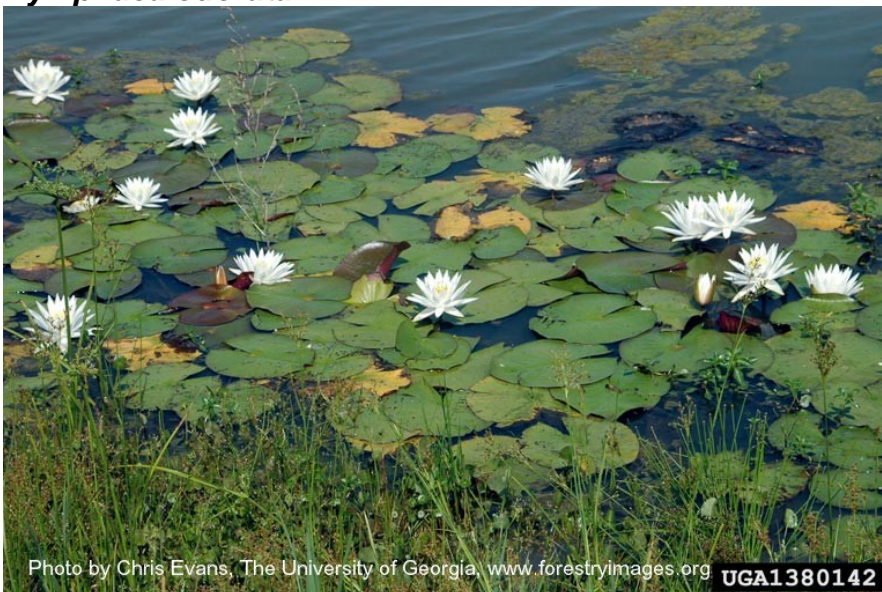
Southern Naiad is an annual plant that grows submerged and rooted. It reproduces by seeds and fragmentation and can form very dense groups.

**Muskgrass**  
*Chara spp.*



Often called skunkweed because of its musty garlic-like odor. It is actually a gray-green branched multicellular algae. It does not flower and never extends above water surface.

**White Water Lily**  
*Nymphaea odorata*



The White Water Lily is a rooted perennial plant with floating leaves from 6-12 inches in diameter which have a slit. It reproduces from rhizomes and seeds. Its flower is very fragrant.



## American Lotus

*Nelumbo lutea*



Photo by Larry Allain, National Wetlands Research Center USGS

The American Lotus is a rooted, perennial emergent plant with leaves up to 2 feet in diameter which have no slit. Leaves may be floating or emerge above the water surface as much as 3 1/2 feet. It reproduces from rhizomes and seeds. It is commonly confused with water lilies.

## Pickerel Weed

*Pontederia cordata*



Photo Courtesy of Paul Rebmann [www.wildflphoto.com](http://www.wildflphoto.com)

Pickerelweed is a perennial plant with shiny green, heart or lance shaped leaves up to 7 inches long. It may reach 3 1/2 feet tall. The numerous flower spikes are violet-blue in color and last only one day. Plant reproduces from seeds and rhizomes.

**Arrowhead**  
*Sagittaria spp.*



Arrowhead is a perennial plant usually with arrowhead-shaped leaves. Some plants have leaves that are narrow and almost grass-like. They can grow in shallow water or in wet areas. May grow to over 4 feet tall. Reproduces by seeds and rhizomes.

**Water Pennywort**  
*Hydrocotyle spp.*



Water Pennywort is a small perennial emergent plant that can grow in damp soil or floating on the water surface.



## Tapegrass, Eelgrass, Wild Celery

*Vallisneria americana*



Photo courtesy of <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/index.htm>

Eelgrass grows as a submerged, rooted plant common in flowing water. The leaves are long, thin and ribbon-like and can grow 3 to 4 feet in length. It can grow so dense that it may keep other plants out.

## American Pondweed

*Potamogeton nodosus*

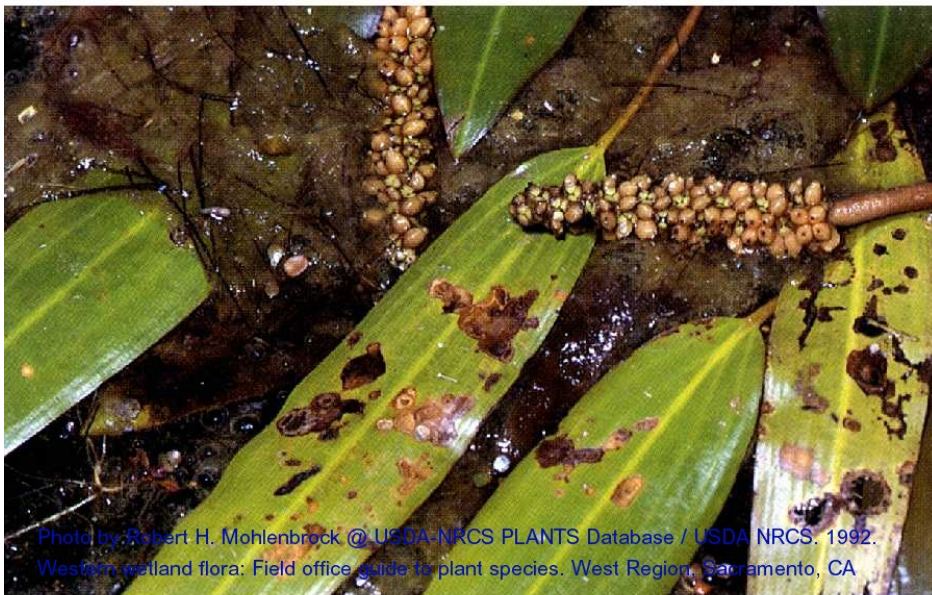


Photo by Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. 1992.  
Western wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species. West Region, Sacramento, CA

American Pondweed is a perennial plant that grows with both submerged and floating leaves.



**Waterstargrass**  
*Heteranthera dubia*



Photo Courtesy of <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/index.htm>

Waterstargrass is rooted and can grow up to 6 feet in length forming dense beds. It reproduces from seeds and fragmentation.

**Spatterdock**  
*Nuphar lutea* also known as *Nuphar luteum*



Photo by Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

Spatterdock is a perennial emergent plant that grows from rooted rhizomes and seeds.

## **Bulrush** *Scirpus validus*



There are several species of bulrushes including soft-stem bulrush and giant bulrush. They are perennial and can grow to 10 feet tall in shallow water or moist soils. Grows in dense colonies from rhizomes. Soft-stem bulrush is light gray-green with a soft stem that is round in cross section. Giant bulrush is dark green with a hard stem and triangular in cross section. Flowers occur just below the tip of the stem.

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Any of these plants may be found and obtained from various local water sources for personal use in stocking a backyard pond containing turtles. There are no laws against obtaining these wild native aquatic plants outside of state or federally owned parks. Just remember to get permission from any private property owners before coming on to their property. Be careful and do not overly disturb wild habitats.

Also be familiar with non-native species and plants classed as noxious weeds. Many of those are not good to propagate and some are illegal to possess.

**Note: many plants, although native, can still be quite invasive and may require periodic thinning or confinement in containers to control spread.**

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