

Weed of the Month

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Curly Leaf Pondweed is an aquatic invasive plant, with green to reddish-brown wavy leaves that grows in lakes, wetlands, and other surface waters, usually in shallow water up to depths of approximately 15 feet, and growing up to 15 feet long. It can often be seen just below the surface of the water and forms large, dense populations, outcompeting native aquatic vegetation. Curly Leaf Pondweed begins to grow very early in the spring, as soon as ice-out or just before, outcompeting native aquatic vegetation that requires warmer temperatures. It produces turions, or seed heads that begin to sprout in the fall.



CLP is native to Eurasia, Africa and Australia, and was likely introduced when common carp were introduced to the Midwest in the 1880s. It is spread through the movement of water craft and water equipment. To prevent the spread of CLP, and other aquatic invasive species, follow these important steps:

- If you own a watercraft:
 - Carefully and thoroughly clean your watercraft every time you exit a waterbody. Some AIS are small and difficult to see, such as Zebra Mussels. To remove or kill them, spray with high-pressure water, and dry for at least 5 days.
 - Drain all water-related equipment, including boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, as well as bilge, livewell, and baitwell. Remove and keep drain plugs out and draining devices open while transporting.
- Always dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or move aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Learn to identify CLP, and report and new infestations to a local [DNR invasive species contact](#). AIS identification guides are available at City Hall, or online at the [Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center](#).

For more information contact: Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Coordinator at 651-255-1123 or email Kspreiter@mendotaheightsmn.gov.

Image above courtesy of the University of MN Extension.