

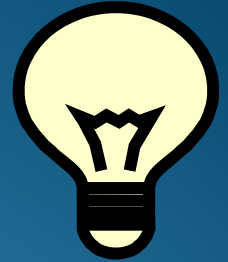
Photographing Aquatic Plants



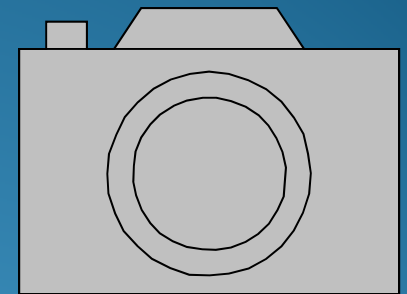
LH NYSFOLA
July 24, 2015

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Equipment to Have on Hand



- Aquatic Plant
- Clean Water (probably not site water)
- Clear Glass Dish
- White Background (plastic)
- Consistent Lighting (Controllable)
- Digital Camera
- Plastic ruler
- Aquatic Plant ID Books

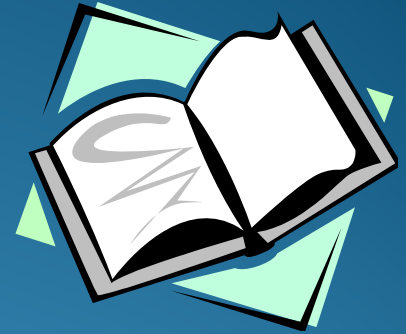


An Excellent Reference

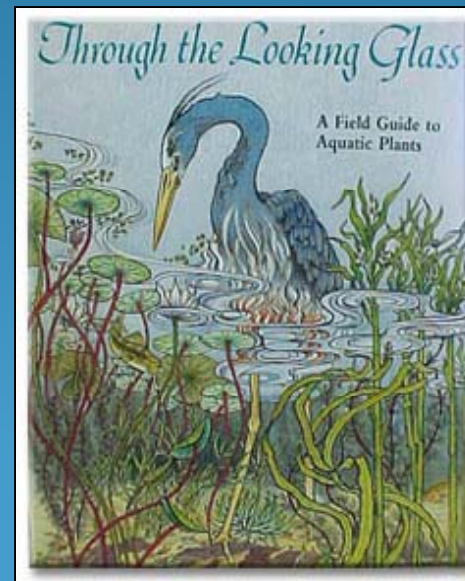
Through the Looking Glass...

A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants

By Borman, Korth, and Temte, 1997

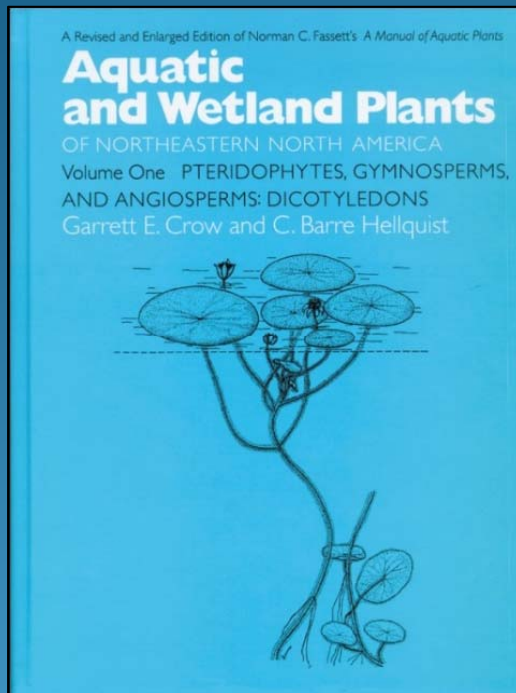


- Not a Taxonomic Key
- Excellent line drawings
- Ecology Information
- Focuses on Wisconsin Plants
- Inexpensive (~\$25)

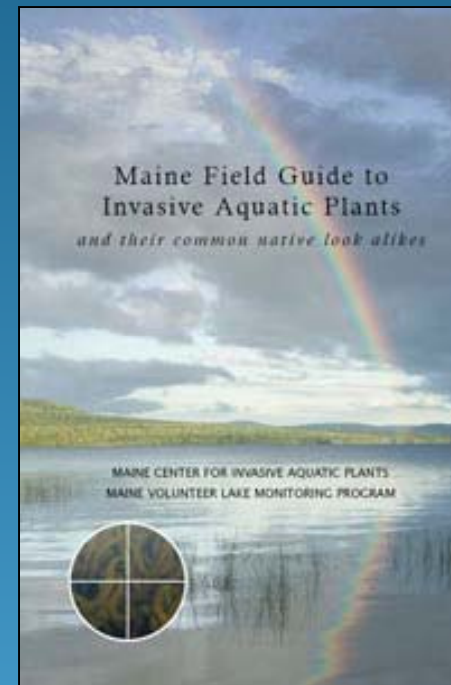


Please note: Flowers and seeds are required for most positive identifications, yet they are only produced at specific times during the year

Additional References



Crow and Hellquist
Volume 1 and 2



Focuses on Invasive
Plants and native
Look-alikes

Websites

University of Florida: Center for Aquatic Plants (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>)

USDA: Plant Profiles (<http://plants.usda.gov>)

Plant Structures for ID

- The Whole Plant
 - More than one stem is helpful
 - Roots, stem, leaves (and floating leaves, if applicable)
 - Flowers and seeds often needed to confirm ID
 - Reproductive structures (tubers, turions)
- One Plant per Picture
- “Focus” on the plant (No selfies)
- Rinse the plant sample
 - Remove sediment and algae



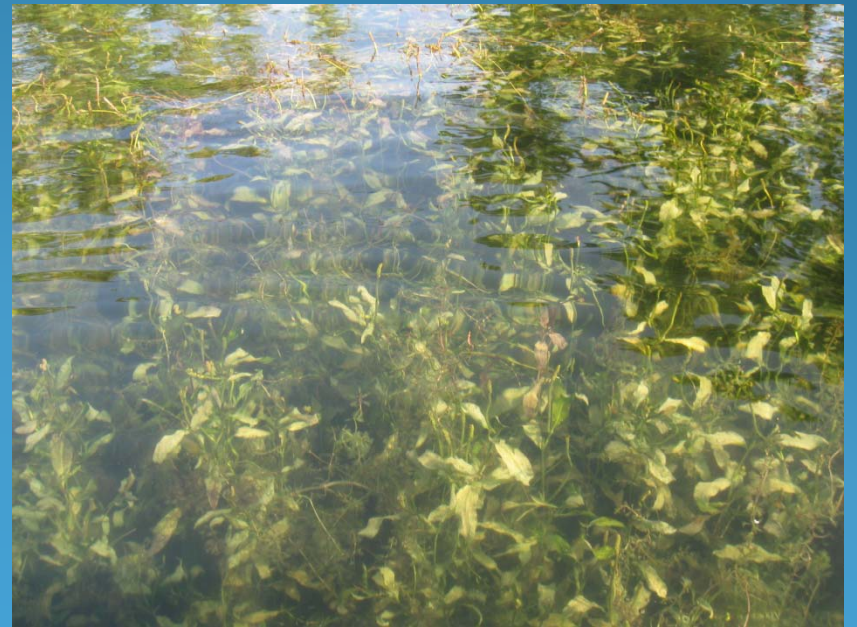
Floating Leaf and Emergents

- OK to photograph in field
 - Collect structures to confirm ID



Submersed Aquatic Plants

- Better to take pictures of plant underwater
 - Especially delicate plants with whorled leaves
 - Fanwort, milfoils, waterweeds, fine-leaved pondweeds
 - Preferred to photograph inside
 - Control lighting
 - White background
 - Able to “pose” the plant
 - Usually no flash is a better option
- Place a ruler nearby for scale





EWM out of water

EWM in water





Larger, Broad-leaved Pondweeds OK to Photograph Out of Water

Plant Structures to “Focus” on

- Reproductive Structures
 - Seeds, flowers, tubers, turions
- Leaves
 - Floating vs. submersed leaves
 - Whorls (#/leaves in a whorl)
 - Veins
 - Edges, tips (serrations)
 - Stipules (pondweeds)





Questions?

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