



Pocket Field Guide

SAV species list

- Cd** - Hornwort/Coontail - *Ceratophyllum demersum*
- Cal** - Water starwort - *Callitriche* sp.
- Egd** - Brazilian waterweed - *Egeria densa*
- Ex** - Unknown waterweed - *Elodea* sp.
- Ec** - Common waterweed - *Elodea canadensis*
- En** - Western waterweed - *Elodea nuttallii*
- Hd** - Water stargrass - *Heteranthera dubia*
- Hv** - Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*
- Mx** - Unknown milfoil - *Myriophyllum* sp.
- Mh** - Low watermilfoil - *Myriophyllum humile*
- Ma** - Parrot feather milfoil - *Myriophyllum brasiliense/aquaticum*
- Ms** - Eurasian watermilfoil - *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Nx** - Unknown naiad - *Najas* sp.
- Nfl** - Northern naiad - *Najas flexilis*
- Ngr** - Slender naiad - *Najas gracillima*
- Ngd** - Southern naiad - *Najas guadalupensis*
- Nm** - Spiny naiad - *Najas minor*
- Px** - Unknown pondweed - *Potamogeton* sp.
- Pc** - Curly pondweed - *Potamogeton crispus*
- Pe** - Leafy pondweed - *Potamogeton epihydrus*
- Pi** - Illinois pondweed - *Potamogeton illinoensis*
- Pn** - American pondweed - *Potamogeton nodosus*
- Ppf** - Redhead grass - *Potamogeton perfoliatus*
- Ppu** - Slender pondweed - *Potamogeton pusillus*
- Rm** - Widgeon grass - *Ruppia maritima*
- Sp** - Sago pondweed - *Stuckenia pectinata*
- Ut** - Bladderwort - *Utricularia*
- Va** - Wild celery - *Vallisneria americana*
- Zm** - Eelgrass - *Zostera marina*
- Zp** - Horned pondweed - *Zannichellia palustris*
- U** - Unknown species

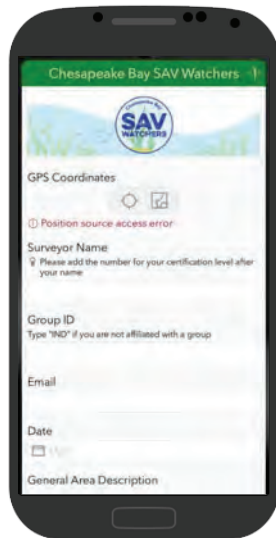
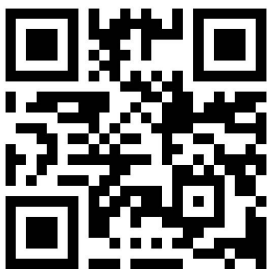
Data submission form

Upload observations while in the field or afterwards.

Photo required (if present)



ArcGIS Survey123



Hornwort/Coontail

Cd

Ceratophyllum demersum



Location: Freshwater tributaries

General ID: Though it lacks true roots, hornwort may be observed attached to the sediment by a holdfast-type structure or floating freely below the water surface. Stems grow up to 3 m long. Brittle, stiff leaves grow in whorls of 9 or 10. Whorls are denser toward the end of the stem. Leaves fork into linear, flat segments. Fine teeth grow on one side of the leaf margin.

Similar morphology: Eurasian watermilfoil

Fun facts:

- Neither a dicot nor a eudicot, but is closely related to eudicots
- Found in all 50 states
- Most often found in slow-moving waters

Order Ceratophyllales • Family Ceratophyllaceae

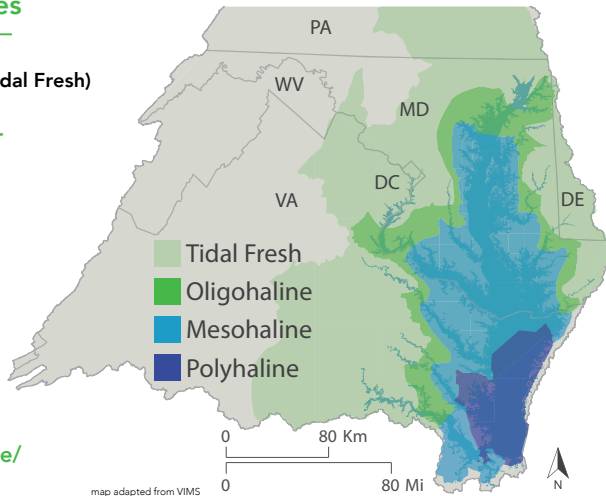
Sampling in Chesapeake Bay

Salinity Zones & Sampling Guidelines

Oligohaline (includes Tidal Fresh)
&
August and September

Mesohaline
&
July and August

Polyhaline
&
**May (eelgrass) and June/
July (widgeon grass)**



Field packing list



Observers without training

On-site reporting

- Smartphone equipped with the ArcGIS Survey123 app
- SAV species guide

Off-site reporting

- Paper
- Pencil
- Watch or Clock
- Camera
- GPS-enabled device
- SAV species guide

Optional items

- Binoculars
- Hand lens
- Dry bag
- Waterproof camera
- Mask and snorkel
- Boat
- Life jacket
- Trash bag

Hornwort/Coontail

Ceratophyllum demersum

Cd



Oligohaline

Order Ceratophyllales • Family Ceratophyllaceae

Monitoring parameters

Basic observer and site information

- Secchi depth
- Water depth
- Total SAV density
- Epiphytes
- SAV at surface
- Bottom sediment

Sampling ranges

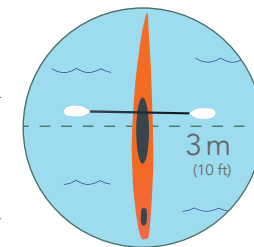
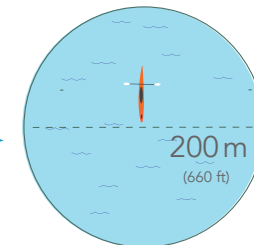


Photo Required (if present)

- SAV species
- Other macrophytes
- SAV flowers and seeds

Long-range data

- Shoreline type
- Visible shoreline erosion
- Marine debris
- Other human impact



Water starwort

Callitriche sp.

Cal



Location: Fresh waters throughout Bay

General ID: Egg-shaped leaves are bright green and grow about 2 cm long and up to 8 mm wide, and may be observed at or just above the surface growing in rosettes that resemble small green flowers. Below the surface, each joint of the stem has two leaves that grow opposite one another.

Similar morphology: Common waterweed

Fun facts:

- Multiple species occur in the Bay; *C. stagnalis* is shown at the left
- Provides habitat for insects
- Food source for ducks

Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Lamiales • Family Plantaginaceae

Brazilian waterweed

Egeria densa

Egd



Location: Not common in the Bay; found in fresh waters

General ID: Forms thick mats at the surface of the water. Stems are highly branched. Leaves form in whorls of four and are densest near the top of the stem. Leaves are dark or bright green, serrated, long, and narrow (up to 2.5 cm long and 0.75 cm wide). Small white flowers form in the spring and the fall.

Similar morphology: *Hydrilla*, common waterweed

Fun facts:

- Native to South America
- Introduced to U.S. waters by aquarium owners emptying their aquaria in rivers and ponds

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Common waterweed

Elodea canadensis

Ec



Location: Freshwater tributaries; occasionally in saltier waters where freshwater springs are found

General ID: Oval leaves grow directly on thin, branched stems (no leaf stalks). Leaves grow in whorls, with 3 per node. Tips of leaves are blunt and margins have fine teeth that are only visible using a hand lens. Leaves are densest toward stem tip.

Similar morphology: *Hydrilla*, western and Brazilian waterweeds

Fun facts:

- Food for beavers, muskrats, and ducks
- Can grow in deep or shallow waters
- Habitat for invertebrates, small fishes, and amphibians

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Western waterweed

Elodea nuttallii

En



Location: Fresh waters and upper reaches of Bay tributaries

General ID: Long, slender, branched stems grow up to 1 m long. Whorled leaves grow directly on stems (in threes or fours) and are evenly spaced along stem. Leaves are short (up to 16 mm) and narrow. Leaves are pale green in color. Flowers are white.

Similar morphology: *Hydrilla*, waterweeds

Fun facts:

- Native to North America
- Invasive in Europe and Asia

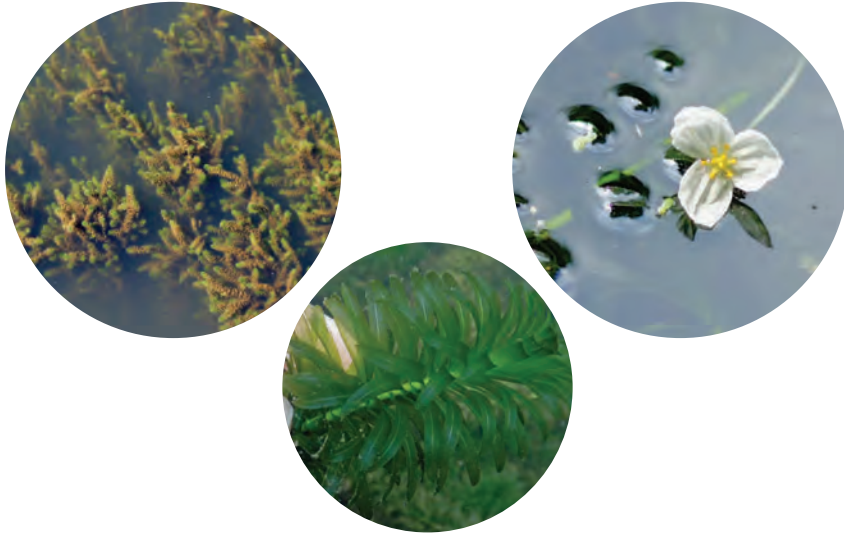
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Brazilian waterweed

Egeria densa

Egd



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Oligohaline

Water starwort

Callitriche sp.

Cal



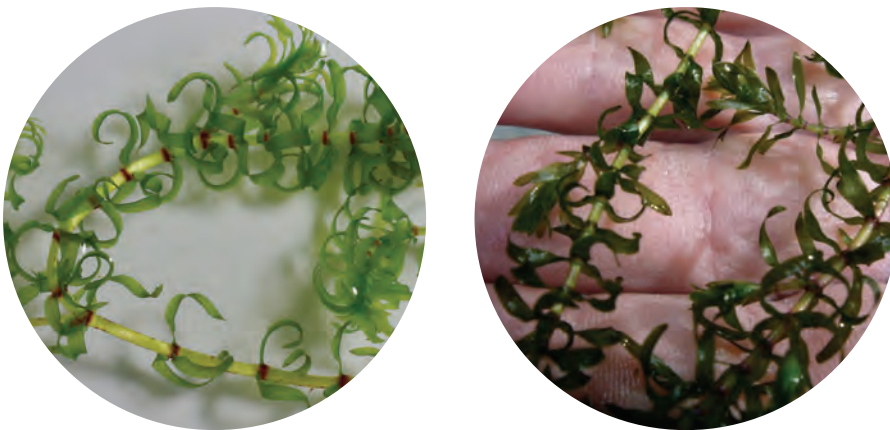
Eudicot • Order Lamiales • Family Plantaginaceae

Oligohaline

Western waterweed

Elodea nuttallii

En



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Oligohaline

Common waterweed

Elodea canadensis

Ec



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Oligohaline

Water stargrass

Heteranthera dubia

Hd



Location: Freshwater tributaries

General ID: Tall, somewhat bushy plant with grass-like leaves that grow on branching stems. The bottom of each leaf wraps around the stem like a sheath. Leaves are arranged alternately. Yellow, 6-petaled flowers may grow above water in the summer.

Similar morphology: Naiads

Fun facts:

- Flowers only open above the surface of the water
- There is also a terrestrial form of this species

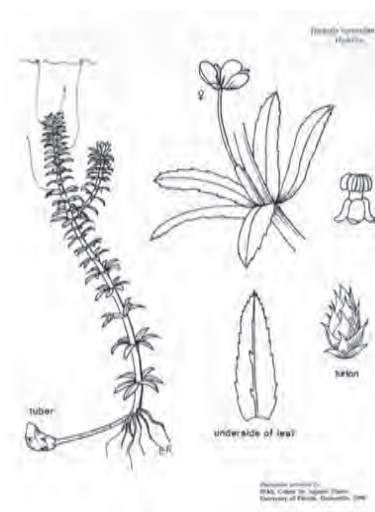
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Commelinales • Family Pontederiaceae

Hydrilla

Hydrilla verticillata

Hv



Location: Fresh and brackish waters of the Bay, in areas with muddy substrate

General ID: Stems are long and branching. Leaves grow in whorls of 3-5, and can be straight, lance shaped, or very small. Leaves are linear and visibly serrated. Flowers are white and very small.

Similar morphology: Waterweeds

Fun facts:

- Non-native in Chesapeake Bay
- Can live in lower light conditions than other SAV species
- Food source for migratory birds

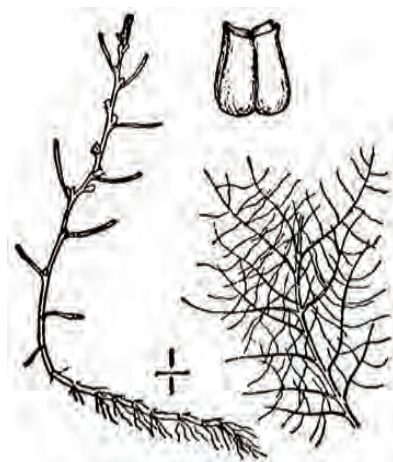
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Low watermilfoil

Myriophyllum humile

Mh



Location: Freshwater coastal ponds, lakes, and reservoirs along shoreline

General ID: Morphology is extremely variable depending on water level. Leaves are very fine and grow sub-oppositely or scattered along stems. Each leaf has up to 20 hair-like segments (up to 10 per side) that make this plant appear fuzzy.

Similar morphology: Eurasian watermilfoil

Fun facts:

- Not common in Chesapeake Bay

Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Parrot feather milfoil

Myriophyllum brasiliense (or *aquaticum*)

Ma



Location: Fresh waters of the Bay

General ID: Stems are stout; pinnate leaves grow in whorls of 5. Each side of the leaf has up to 25 protrusions. May be observed growing along the shoreline submerged or exposed. Maintains structure out of the water and can survive growing terrestrially along shoreline

Similar morphology: Eurasian watermilfoil

Fun facts:

- Can grow out of water and onto land
- No male plants exist outside of South America
- Native to the Amazon
- Introduced to the U.S. in Washington, D.C.

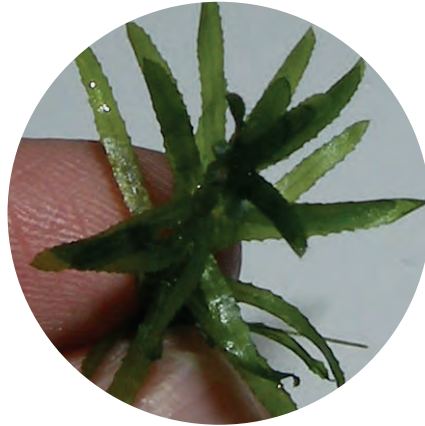
Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Hydrilla

Hydrilla verticillata

Hv



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Water stargrass

Heteranthera dubia

Hd



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Commelinales • Family Pontederiaceae

Parrot feather milfoil

Myriophyllum brasiliense (or *aquaticum*)

Ma

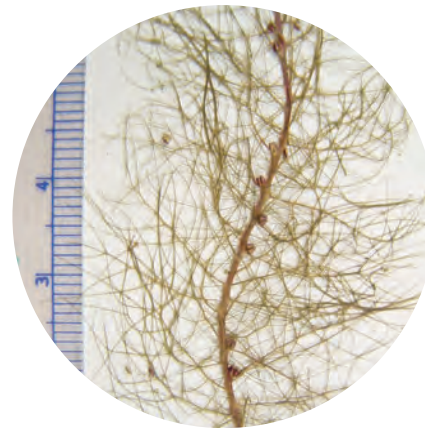


Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Low watermilfoil

Myriophyllum humile



Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Eurasian watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

Ms



Location: Widely distributed in fresh and brackish waters of the Bay and its tributaries

General ID: Delicate leaves resemble feathers and grow in whorls of 4 (usually) or 5. Leaves are pinnate and lose their shape when removed from the water. In the summer, reddish flowers grow in spikes above the water.

Similar morphology: Parrot feather milfoil, hornwort

Fun facts:

- Is an introduced species in the Bay
- Provides habitat for insects and aquatic species

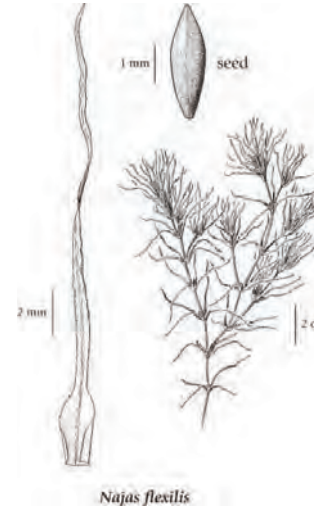
Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Northern naiad

Najas flexilis

Nfl



Location: Rivers and fresh and brackish Bay waters, in areas with sandy substrate

General ID: Narrow leaves are slightly broader at the base and grow up to 6 mm long. Leaves are opposite or in whorls, and curve out from the stem. Stem is slender and branching.

Similar morphology: Slender, southern, and spiny naiads

Fun facts:

- Also known as the "nodding water nymph"
- Sensitive to pollution
- Food source for water birds

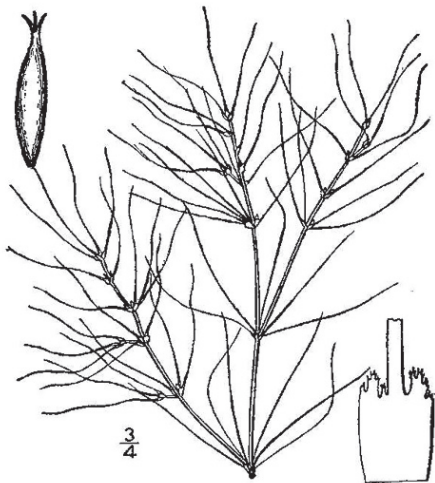
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Slender naiad

Najas gracillima

Ngr



Location: Rivers and fresh Bay waters, in areas with sandy substrate

General ID: Leaves are narrower than those of southern and northern naiads. Tiny teeth are very difficult to see on leaf edges. Leaves are opposite or whorled and grow up to 28 mm in length. Leaves grow more densely near the top of the slender, branching stem.

Similar morphology: Northern, southern, and spiny naiads

Fun facts:

- Also called the "thread-like water nymph"

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Southern naiad

Najas guadalupensis

Ngd



Location: Rivers and fresh Bay waters, in areas with sandy substrate

General ID: Narrow, flat, straight leaves grow up to 33 mm long. Leaves are opposite or whorled on slender, branching stems.

Similar morphology: Slender, northern, and spiny naiads

Fun facts:

- Found across the Americas
- Considered a weed in some areas
- Food source for water birds and fish
- Also called "bushy pondweed"

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Northern naiad

Najas flexilis

Nfi



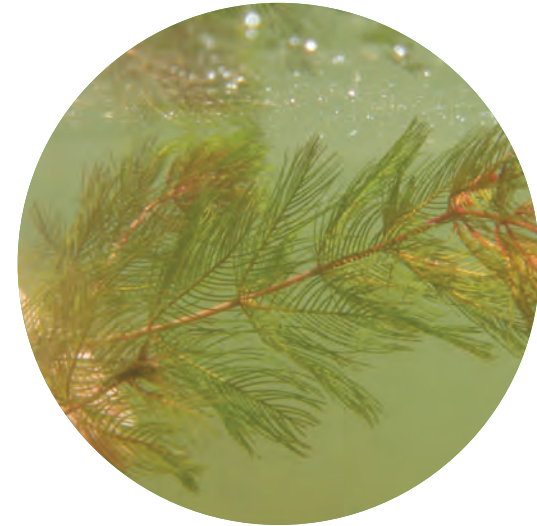
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Eurasian watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

Ms



Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Saxifragales • Family Haloragaceae

Southern naiad

Najas guadalupensis

Ngd



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Slender naiad

Najas gracillima

Ngr



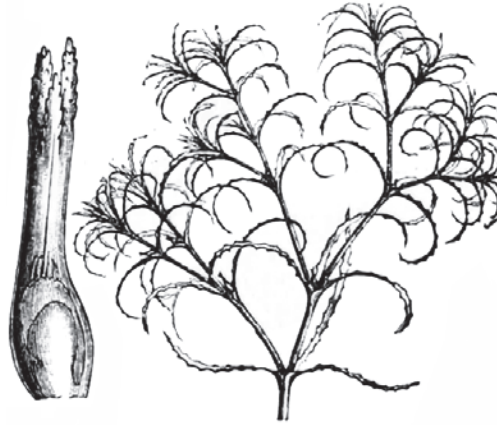
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Spiny naiad

Najas minor

Nm



Location: Rivers and fresh Bay waters, in areas with sandy substrate

General ID: Leaves are narrower than those of Southern and Northern naiads. Tiny teeth on leaf edges are visible to the naked eye. Stiff, recurved leaves grow oppositely or whorled on slender, branching stems.

Similar morphology: Slender, southern, and northern naiad

Fun facts:

- Also called the “brittle waternymph”
- Introduced species from Europe

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Curly pondweed

Potamogeton crispus

Pc



Location: Found in fresh and slightly brackish waters of the Bay

General ID: Stems are round and branching, with alternate leaves that may grow opposite near water surface. Leaves are wavy with distinct mid-vein and may appear reddish-brown as summer progresses.

Similar morphology: Redhead grass

Fun facts:

- Introduced to Chesapeake Bay in the 1800's
- Leaves appear crimped

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Leafy pondweed

Potamogeton epihydrus

Pe



Location: Found in slow moving, freshwater less than 2 m deep; not common in Chesapeake Bay

General ID: Has both floating and submerged leaves, which are bright green with a light-colored stripe down the center. Floating leaves are paddle-like. Stems are flat and grow up to 18 cm long. Flowers are small and brownish green.

Similar morphology: Other pondweeds

Fun facts:

- Eaten by waterfowl
- Provides habitat for aquatic animals

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Illinois pondweed

Potamogeton illinoensis

Pi



Location: Rare in the Bay, may be found in freshwater areas

General ID: Long stems support ellipse-shaped leaves. Leaves grow submerged and floating. Submerged leaves are longer than floating leaves, and have pointed tips. Floating leaves are paddle-like. Stems are long, cylindrical, slim, and branching. Small green flowers grow on spikes.

Similar morphology: Other pondweeds

Fun facts:

- Also known as “shining pondweed”

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Curly pondweed

Potamogeton crispus

Pc



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Oligohaline

Spiny naiad

Najas minor

Nm



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Oligohaline

Illinois pondweed

Potamogeton illinoensis

Pi



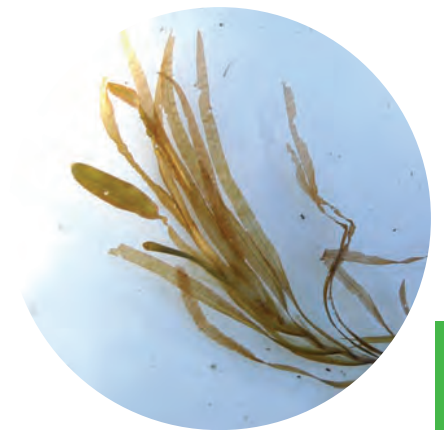
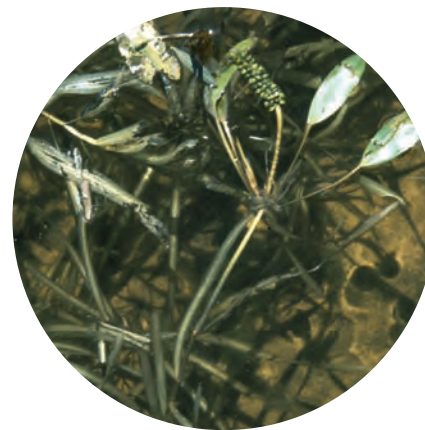
Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Oligohaline

Leafy pondweed

Potamogeton epihydrus

Pe



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Oligohaline

American pondweed

Potamogeton nodosus

Pn



Location: Rivers, ponds, and tidal fresh and brackish waters of the Bay

General ID: Floating leaves may appear dense at the surface. Stems can be up to 2 m long. Floating leaves are oval and are 10-18 cm long and up to 2-5 cm across. Underwater leaves are sparse, and are smaller and blade-like. Flower stalks grow above water.

Similar morphology: Other pondweeds

Fun facts:

- Also called "longleaf pondweed"
- Food source and shelter for turtles, fishes, ducks, and invertebrates
- Has submerged and floating leaves

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Redhead grass

Potamogeton perfoliatus

Ppf



Location: Brackish waters with muddy substrate and slow currents

General ID: Flat, oval leaves have several highly visible veins and are arranged alternately along the stem, occasionally opposite near the surface. Leaf bases attach directly to and wrap around the stem.

Similar morphology: Curly pondweed

Fun facts:

- Named for the redhead ducks that consume it
- Also a food source for other waterfowl

Mesohaline

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Slender pondweed

Potamogeton pusillus

Ppu



Location: Upper and middle Bay and fresh to slightly brackish tributaries

General ID: Thin, grass-like leaves have pointed tips. Leaves are arranged alternately and have prominent mid-veins. Stems are slender and branching. Flowers grow in whorls on spikes.

Similar morphology: Sago pondweed, horned pondweed, and widgeon grass

Fun facts:

- Also called "small pondweed"
- Eaten by waterfowl

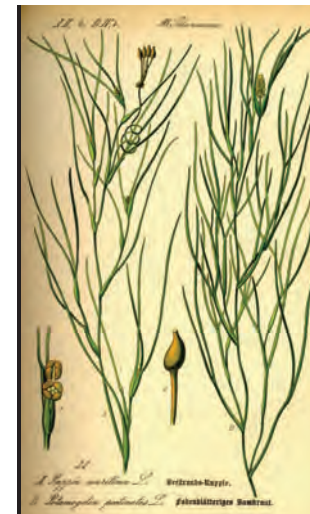
Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Widgeon grass

Ruppia maritima

Rm



Location: Middle to lower Bay throughout brackish and salty tributaries and mainstem

General ID: Long, narrow, threadlike leaves grow alternately on narrow stems. A sheath grows at the base of each leaf. Leaves grow up to 10 cm long and 0.5 mm wide. During the late summer, flower stalks grow and branch upwards with distinct flowers and drupelets. There are two growth forms of widgeon grass in the Bay: an upright, bushy form present during flowering (summer); and a creeping form with the leaves appearing basal from early spring through late winter.

Similar morphology: Horned and sago pondweed (when not flowering)

Fun facts:

- May be found growing with eelgrass
- Most common in sandy substrate
- Important food source for ducks, geese, and other waterfowl

Polyhaline

Mesohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Ruppiales

Redhead grass

Potamogeton perfoliatus

Ppf



Mesohaline

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

American pondweed

Potamogeton nodosus

Pn



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Widgeon grass

Ruppia maritima

Rm



Polyhaline

Mesohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Ruppiaceae

Slender pondweed

Potamogeton pusillus

Ppu



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Bladderwort

Utricularia

Up



Location: Freshwater ponds and ditches

General ID: Typically found floating, with stems and leaves submerged. Stems are branching and grow horizontally. Leaves are alternate, stem-like, linear, and may grow oppositely or whorled. Bladders grow on stems and leaves. True roots are absent. Flowers grow on leafless stems when present.

Fun facts:

- Several species inhabit Chesapeake Bay
- Are carnivorous; they trap and digest organisms in bladders
- Free-floating and rootless
- Often called "ditch grass"

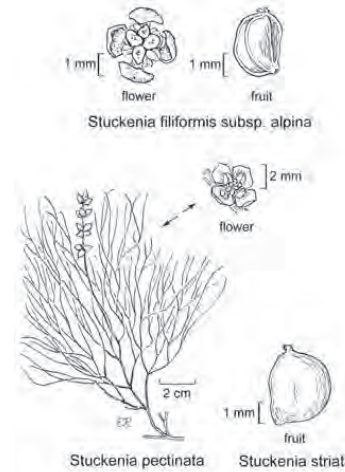
Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Lamiales • Family Lentibulariaceae

Sago pondweed

Stuckenia pectinata

Sp



Location: Fresh to brackish waters throughout the Bay

General ID: Stems are slender and branching. Leaves are arranged alternately, and are long, threadlike, and tapered to a point. The basal sheath may be pointed. Stems and leaves may appear fan-like. Seed clusters may appear above the water surface and resemble grape clusters.

Similar morphology: Horned pondweed and widgeon grass

Fun facts:

- This species was formerly classified as *Potamogeton pectinatus*
- Inhabits the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia
- Easiest to differentiate from widgeon grass when seeds are present

Mesohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Eelgrass

Zostera marina

Zm



Location: Saltier waters of the Bay

General ID: Eelgrass shoots typically consist of 3-5 strap-like leaves enclosed in a basal leaf sheath. Leaves can grow to be 1 m long, but vary in size depending on the plant's location. Eelgrass has thick, creeping rhizomes with many roots and nodes.

Similar morphology: Wild celery

Fun facts:

- Eelgrass beds provide refuge for many species including seahorses, pipefish, juvenile fishes, blue crabs, and scallops.
- Eelgrass is the only true seagrass found in Chesapeake Bay.

Polyhaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Zosteraceae

Wild celery

Vallisneria spiralis

Va



Location: Fresh to slightly brackish tidal waters of the Bay

General ID: Ribbon-like leaves grow in clusters from the base of the plant. Leaves are long and flat with blunt, rounded tips and a light green mid-vein. They grow up to 1.5 m long and 1 cm wide.

Similar morphology: Eelgrass

Fun facts:

- Provides food for migratory and overwintering birds

Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Sago pondweed

Stuckenia pectinata

Sp



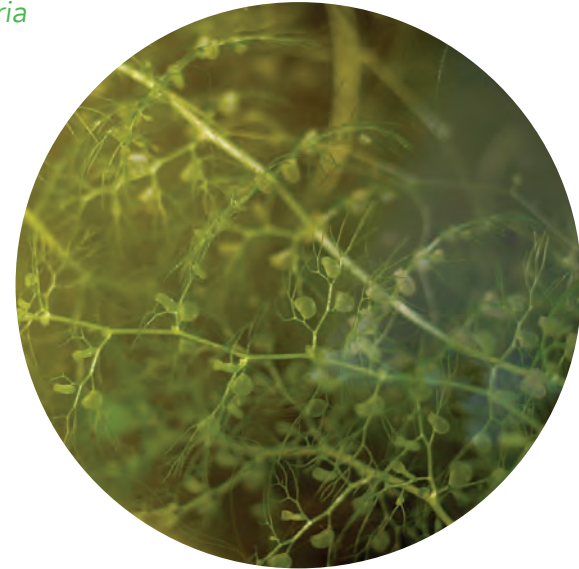
Mesohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Bladderwort

Utricularia

Up



Oligohaline

Eudicot • Order Lamiales • Family Lentibulariaceae

Wild celery

Vallisneria americana

Va



Oligohaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Hydrocharitaceae

Eelgrass

Zostera marina

Zm



Polyhaline

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Zosteraceae

Horned pondweed

Zannichellia palustris

Zp

Polyhaline

Mesohaline

Oligohaline

Location: Widely distributed in the Bay, most abundant in the Mesohaline mid-Bay

General ID: Stems are slender and branching. Long, linear, threadlike leaves are arranged oppositely or in whorls. Leaf tips are pointed and the basal sheath of the leaves is thin. This plant can be distinguished by its horn-like seeds that appear in pairs or sometimes in a set of four.

Similar morphology: Sago pondweed, widgeongrass

Fun facts:

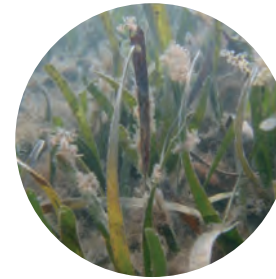
- Multiple variations of this species exist
- Two forms are found in the Bay: one grows upwards, the other grows along the bottom sediment with stems and roots together



A. STORSÄRV, ZANNICHELLIA MAJOR BOERN.
B. SMÅSÄRV, Z. REPENS BOERN. C. SKAFTSÄRV, Z. PEDUNCULATA ECHN.

Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Epiphytes



What are they? Epiphytes are algal species that grow on SAV. In terrestrial systems, epiphytic plants may grow on other plants, such as trees.

Are they parasites? No. Epiphytes use SAV and other plants as a substrate on which to grow, but do not always impact their host negatively. However, when nutrients are overly abundant, epiphytic algae may cover too much of the host SAV surface, blocking light and inhibiting photosynthesis.

Location: Often found growing on SAV in and around the Bay.

General ID: Varies immensely depending on species of epiphyte. May grow on leaves or stem of SAV.

Green freshwater algae



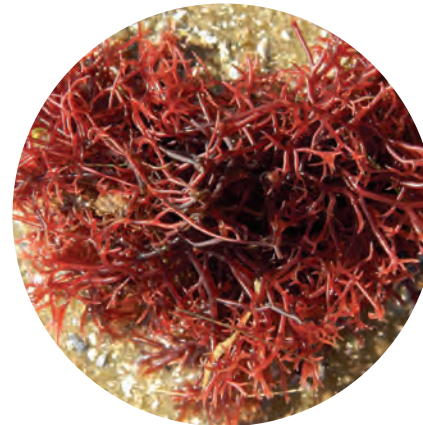
Genera: *Chara*, *Nitella*

Common Name: Muskgrass

General ID: Resemble some SAV species, but these are algae, not vascular plants. Leaves branch, and grow off branching stems in whorls.

Green freshwater macroalgae

Red saltwater algae



Genera: *Gracilaria*, *Agardiella*

Common Name: Red algae

General ID: Red in color, highly branched structure.

Red saltwater macroalgae

Lyngbya



What is it? Lyngbya is a freshwater cyanobacteria.

Location: Lyngbya has been found in the northern Bay covering SAV beds, and in fishing gear during the summer.

General ID: Grows in strands that clump together and form mats in warm, fresh waters.

Impacts on SAV species: Can grow over SAV beds and inhibit photosynthesis.

Warnings: Associated toxins may cause skin and gastrointestinal inflammation; avoid direct contact with Lyngbya. Wash your skin with soap if contact occurs!

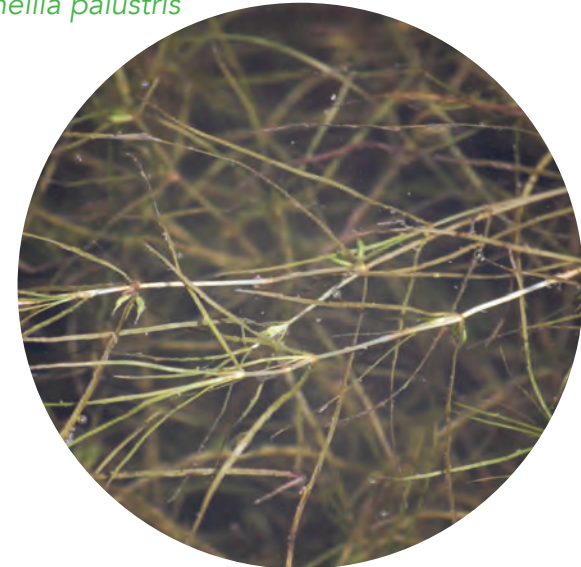
Update: *Microseira wollei* is the current, valid scientific name for *Lyngbya wollei* but it is still referred to as *Lyngbya* throughout SAV Watchers materials.

Bacteria • Phylum Cyanobacteria

Horned pondweed

Zannichellia palustris

Zp



Monocot • Order Alismatales • Family Potamogetonaceae

Polyhaline

Mesohaline

Oligohaline

Brown saltwater algae



Genus: *Ascophyllum*

Common Name: Knotted wrack

General ID: Long fronds with rounded tips and air bladders.

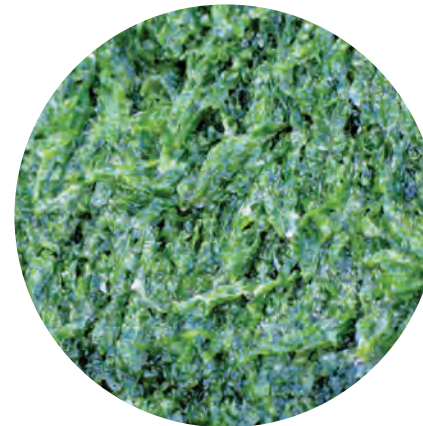
Brown saltwater macroalgae

Genus: *Fucus*

Common Name: Bladder wrack

General ID: Long, branching fronds with air bladders.

Green saltwater algae



Species: *Ulva lactuca*

Common Name: Sea Lettuce

General ID: Sea lettuce resembles green sheets of cellophane. Turf green seaweed is similar to sea lettuce, but grows in a tubular morphology. Both may be found attached to the substrate by holdfasts, but are more often observed in mats or clumps rolling around with the tide.

Green saltwater macroalgae

Genus: *Ulva*

Common Name: Enteromorpha

Water chestnut

Trapa natans and *bispinosa*



What is it? Water chestnut is an invasive floating aquatic plant that is actively managed in Chesapeake Bay.

Location: Has been found in upper Chesapeake Bay tributaries and in the Potomac River.

General ID: Triangle-shaped leaves form rosettes that float on the surface of the water. The plant itself is bulky but the flowers are small and white.

Impacts on SAV species: Leaves can block sunlight from reaching SAV, competes for space.

What to do if you see it: If you see water chestnut while sampling SAV, alert MD DNR at (410) 260-8634.



Harmful algal blooms



What is it? Certain algae species can produce toxins dangerous to humans and aquatic species. When these species reproduce very quickly, or "bloom", they can form a harmful algal bloom, or "HAB".

General ID: May look like thick mats or clumps growing on or near the water surface. May be red, green, or brown in color.

What should you do? It is difficult to distinguish a harmful algal bloom from a non-harmful one, so it is best not to sample in areas with any algal bloom. Instead, report suspicious algal blooms to the Chesapeake Bay Safety and Environmental Hotline at (877) 224-7229.

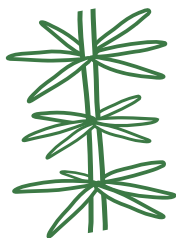
Leaf arrangement vocabulary

These four diagrams introduce you to terminology that is used throughout this pocket guide to denote leaf arrangement.

Basal



Whorled



Alternate



Opposite



Note: Do not determine leaf arrangement based on where the stem divides, as this will likely reflect an atypical arrangement from the majority of the plant.

Quick conversions: 1 cm = 0.39 in 1 m = 3.28 ft

Lily pads

Genus Nuphar • *Genus Nymphaoides* • *Nelumbo lutea*



What is it? Various species of lily pad that inhabit Chesapeake Bay.

Location: Fresh waters in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

General ID: Rounded leaves with waxy coatings float on water surface.

Impacts on SAV species: Can block sunlight from reaching SAV.



Creatures you may see near SAV



Snails



Amphipods



Seahorses



Blue crabs



Scallops



Fishes

Site ID:

(YYMMDD.hhmm.FL)

Image
description:

Site ID:

(YYMMDD.hhmm.FL)

Image
description:

Important Phone Numbers

- Call the Chesapeake Bay Safety and Environmental Hotline at (866) 633-4686 (866-MDE-GOTO) to report boating accidents or reckless activity, fish kills or algae blooms, floating debris that poses a hazard to navigation, illegal fishing activity, public sewer leak or overflow, oil or hazardous material spill, critical area or wetlands violation, or other suspicious or unusual activity.
- To report a stranded marine mammal or sea turtle, call the Maryland Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Program at 1-800-628-9944.
- For a natural resources emergency or to request assistance, call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-628-9944 or (410) 260-8888.
- To report a fishing or wildlife violation, contact Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers at (443) 433-411.
- **In case of emergency, call 911 from your cell phone or issue a MAYDAY on Channel 16 of your VHF radio.**