

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POTAMOGETON ILLINOENSIS
ILLINOIS PONDWEED
Family: Potamogetonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: SH

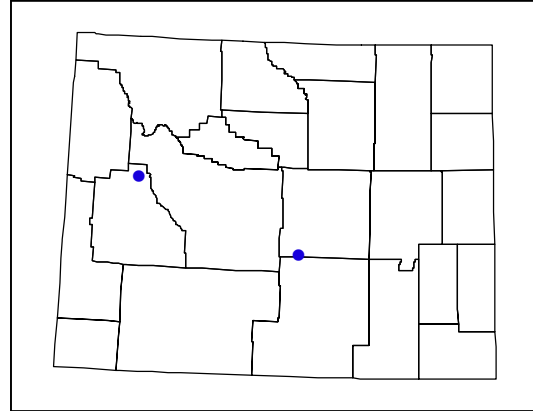
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low conservation priority)

Description: Illinois pondweed is a partially submersed perennial aquatic plant with a branched or unbranched stem 5-15 dm long, arising from a spreading rhizome. There are 2 leaf forms; submersed leaves are elliptic to oblanceolate, 10-20 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, 9-17 nerved, and tapering to a short stalk less than 4 cm long. Floating leaves, when present, are elliptic to oblong-elliptic, 6-12 cm long, 2-6 cm wide, mostly 15-25 nerved, rounded at the base to a stout stalk 2-9 cm long. Stipules are persistent, open, and 3-8 cm long for submersed leaves, 4-12 cm long for floating leaves. The stout flowering stalk is 4-12 cm long, with large flowers composed of greenish tepals, 2.5-3.5 mm long, producing fruits 3-3.5 mm long x 2.2-8 mm wide, with a sharp ridge on the back and two rounded ridges on the side (Cronquist et al. 1977, Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: Among the broad-leaved species of *Potamogeton*, *P. crispus*, *P. praelongus* and *P. richardsonii* have only submersed leaves that are sessile or nearly so. *Potamogeton amplifolius* has floating or uppermost leaves 25-50 nerved. *Potamogeton alpinus* has submersed leaves with petioles 2 cm or less long.

Potamogeton gramineus and *P. nodosus* have submersed leaves less than 2 cm wide.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton illinoensis*

Distribution: Ranging from Quebec to British Columbia south to southern California, Utah, New Mexico, and Texas. In Wyoming, known from the Laramie Basin, Sweetwater River Valley, and Wind River Range in Albany, Natrona, and Sublette counties. Former reports from Fremont County are based on material from Natrona County.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is found mostly in slow-moving streams and ditches and deep ponds and lakes. Wyoming populations occur on mud-bottomed ponds, riverbanks, and marshes at 6000-8000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 historical records in Wyoming, the most recent of which dates from 1954.

Abundance: Unknown.

Trends: Unknown. One population may not be extant.

Protection status: Not known to occur in any formally designated special management area.

Threats: Unknown; may be sensitive to changes in water quality.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bridger-Teton NF and possibly the BLM Lander Field Office.

References:

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