

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*POTAMOGETON ROBBINSII*  
FLATLEAF PONDWEED  
POTAMOGETONACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service:

Agency Status:None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

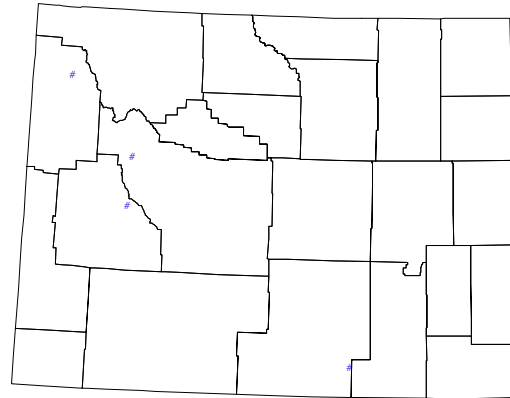
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (low conservation priority)

Description: Flatleaf pondweed is a wholly submersed, multi-branched aquatic herb up to 20 dm long arising from a long, slender rhizome. Leaves are whorled along the stem (not in 2 distinct rows) and have slightly clasping, linear to lance-shaped blades 3-7 cm long and 3-4 mm wide with 20-60 nerves and minutely toothed margins. The leaves are not differentiated into distinct floating and submersed forms. Stipules are fused at the base of the leaf, forming a white clasping sheath with a membranous, shredding tip. The inflorescence is a loose spike 7-20 mm of inconspicuous greenish or reddish paired flowers. Fruits are roughly egg-shaped, 3-4 mm long, and have a prominent keel (Cronquist et al 1977; Dorn 1977, 1992).

Similar Species: *Potamogeton zosteriformis* has leaves arranged in 2 distinct rows along the stem and smooth (untoothed) leaf margins. Other narrow-leaved, submerged *Potamogeton* species in Wyoming have leaf blades with 7 or fewer nerves (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: August - September

Distribution: British Columbia to Labrador, south to central Calif, Utah, Montana,



Wyoming distribution of *Potamogeton robbinsii*.

Wyoming, Indiana and Pennsylvania. In Wyoming it is known from the Medicine Bow and Wind River ranges and Yellowstone Plateau in Carbon, Fremont, Sublette, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Margins of ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams at 7450-10360 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 historical records and 1 extant population in Wyoming (last observed in 1968).

Abundance: Current abundance unknown.

Trends: Unknown. Most occurrences are old or historical.

Protection status: Two populations are protected in Yellowstone National Park and the Bridger Wilderness. One population is also found in the WY Game and Fish Department Whiskey Basin and Little Red Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area. Other occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats not known. May be sensitive to changes in water quality.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bridger-Teton and Medicine Bow National Forests and Yellowstone National Park.

References:

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Volume 6, The Monocotyledons. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Columbia University Press, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 1977. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2 volumes. Garland Publ., INC., New York, NY.

Dorn, R.D. 1988. Vascular Plants of Wyoming. Mountain West Publ., Cheyenne.

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Fertig, W. 2000. Rare vascular plant species in the Wyoming portion of the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. Prepared for the Wyoming Nature Conservancy by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Harrington, H. D. 1954. Manual of the Plants of Colorado. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Haynes, R.R. and C.B. Hellquist. 2000. Potamogetonaceae. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Volume 22 Magnoliophyta: Alismatidae, Arecidae, Commelinidae (in part), and Zingiberidae. Oxford Univ. Press, New York.

Porter, C.L. 1963. A Flora of Wyoming, Part II. Bulletin 404:1-16. Agricultural Experiment Station University of Wyoming.

St. John, H.A. 1916. A revision of the North American species of *Potamogeton* of the section *Coleophyllii*. Rhodora 18(210) 121-138.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-11-24