NARROWLEAF NAIA

*Najas filifolia* Haynes

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Najadaceae (water-nymph)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S3

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Threatened

**Wetland Status:** US-OBL FL-OBL

**Field Description:** Identification of *Najas filifolia* is best done by examining the curved shape of the seed as described by R. R. Haynes (Haynes 1985) or by genetic testing (Dr. Donald Les, pers. comm.).

**Similar Species:** *Najas filifolia* is the only species in the U. S. with strongly curved seeds. *Najas guadalupensis, Najas marina, Najas minor,* and *Najas wrightiana* all have seeds that are straight.

**Related Rare Species:** There are no rare species related to *Najas filifolia*, nor any rare species that have a similar appearance.

**Habitat:** Floating annual plant that prefers dark water less than 2 meters deep. This species has mostly been recorded from lakes and ponds, but has also been recorded in the Blackwater River.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer - Fall. This species is best identified by the seed shape.
narrowleaf naiad  

*Rangewide Distribution*: Peninsular Florida from Highlands County north to Columbia County and westward through the panhandle into Santa Rosa County. One population is known from Decatur County, Georgia.

**Conservation Status**: Potential threats include incidental aquatic herbicide exposure, herbivory from introduced triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and aquatic pollution. Due to its aquatic habitat and difficult identification, it may be going unnoticed in waterways. Much still needs to be learned about this species.

**Protection and Management**: Ensure invasive plant control teams know how to identify this species to avoid collateral damage.

**References**: Haynes 1985