NARROWLEAF NAIAD
Najas filifolia Haynes
Synonyms: none
Family: Hydrocharitaceae (frog's-bit)
FNAI Ranks: G3/S2
Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened


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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.). Seeds are generally present in the fall. The plant is green in color with reddish leaf venation and striations on the fruit, which can be seen with a microscope. Near the end of the growing season when the fruits are mature, the whole plant becomes partly reddish in color and the leaves recurve. The stems and leaf clusters maintain their shape out of the water and become more brittle at the end of the growing season (U25DEP01FLUS).

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 plants related to *Najas filifolia*, nor any rare species that have a similar appearance.

Habitat: Prefers dark water less than 2 meters deep. Mostly been recorded from lakes and ponds, but has also been recorded in the Blackwater River.

Narrowleaf Naiad ***Najas filifolia***

Best Survey Season: Annual, prsent spring-fall. This species is best identified by the seed shape which are generally present in fall.

Range-wide 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: There are 12 occurrences where occupied lakes are completely or mostly surrounded by a managed area as of 2018.

Protection and Management: Educate boaters on cleaning all equipment before leaving waterways to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants. Consider more targeted approaches to invasive plant control than triploid grass carp in lakes occupied by narrowleaf naiad. Ensure invasive plant control teams know how to identify this species to avoid collateral damage. Protect waterways from water run-off and other sources of pollution and sedimentation.

References: Haynes 1985