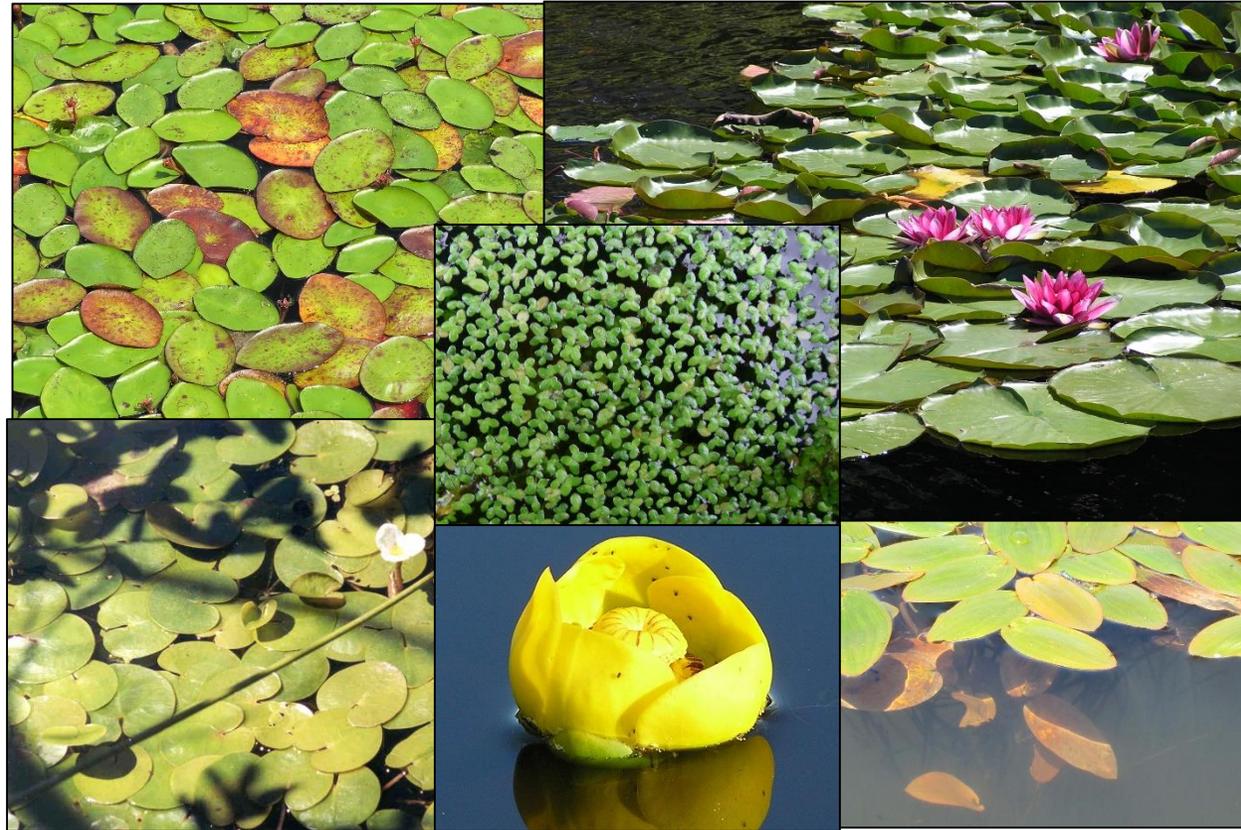


Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

Floating leaved



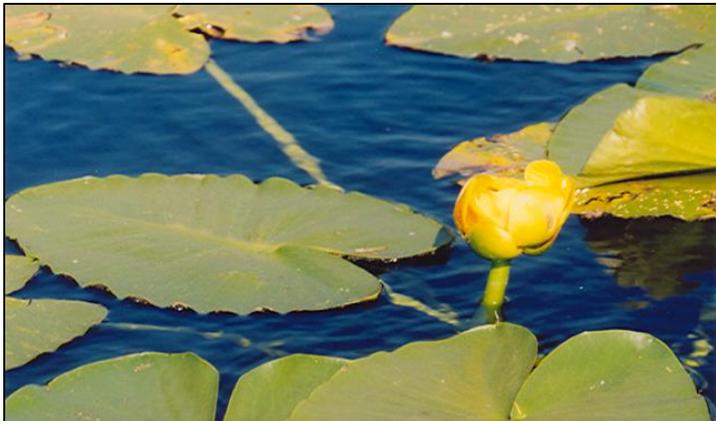
Snohomish County Surface Water Management
Lakes Management Program
425-388-3204
lakes@snoco.org
www.lakes.surfacewater.info



Native Aquatic Plants



- Part of a healthy lake system; benefit people and wildlife
- Good for fish – provide food and cover, act as a “nursery” for juvenile fish.
- Have natural controls - animals that eat them
- Usually do not cause major problems



Common native floating-leaf plants in Snohomish County are:

- Yellow water-lily
- Watershield
- Duckweed
- Large-leaf pondweed
- Watermeal

Invasive Aquatic Plants



- Grow densely, with few natural enemies; adaptable
- Out-compete & displace native plants
- Create nuisance conditions in lakes: disrupting swimming, fishing, and boating
- Once established - high cost to control



Floating-leaved invasive plants in Snohomish County include:

- Fragrant Waterlily
- European frog-bit

You Can Help Prevent Invasive Plants

- Prevention is best approach - much cheaper to prevent than eradicate
- **Clean, drain and dry your boat**
 - before launching and when leaving



STOP MILFOIL Remove all plant fragments

Check boats & trailers before launching & when leaving

Milfoil is a BIG problem:

- Hinders boating, swimming and fishing
- Forms thick mats of vegetation
- Spreads easily by hitching a ride on boats and trailers

You can help stop it!

Please act responsibly. Transporting milfoil is illegal.
R.C.W. 77.15.290


Snohomish County
425-388-3464

Fragrant water-lily

Nymphaea odorata



- Introduced for ornamental purposes with showy white or pink flowers with round pads
- Spreads by rhizomes and seeds
- Unmanaged, can dominate shallow water areas filling them & displacing native plants.
- Found at many lakes in Snohomish County
- Learn about [control options](#)
 - Report new locations to lakes@snoco.org

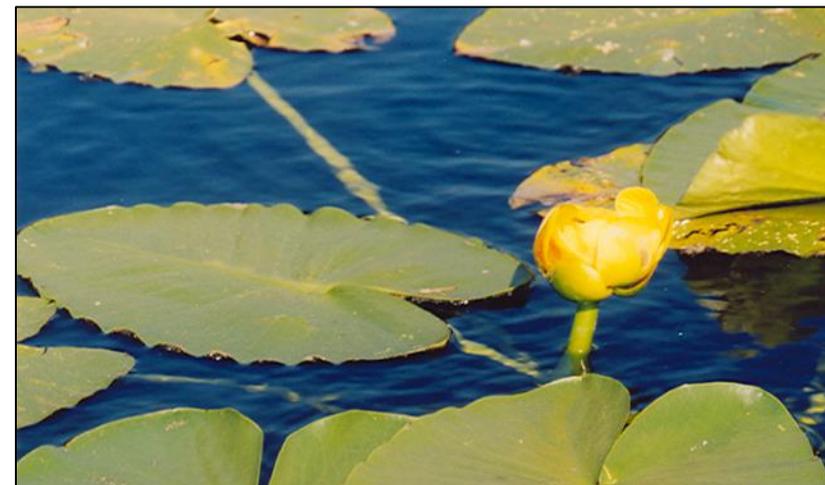


Yellow water-lily or Spatterdock

Nuphar polysepala

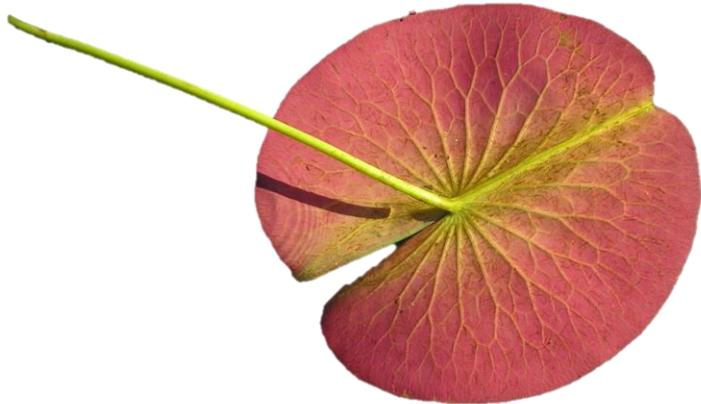


- Native plant widespread in Snohomish County
- Large floating, heart-shaped leaves that sometimes stick out of water with yellow to red poppy-like flower
- Usually stays to edges and provides critical food and habitat for aquatic life





Fragrant
water lily



Yellow
water lily

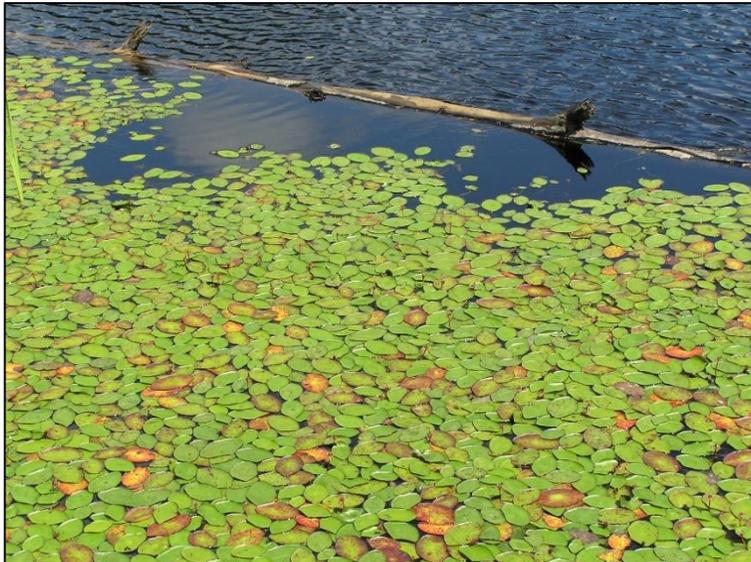


Watershield

Brasenia schreberi



- Found in at least 7 lakes in Snohomish County
- Oval leaves with purple undersides and reddish leaf stalks
- A distinctive thick coating of gelatinous slime can be found on the stems and undersides of new leaves
- Provides good fish and wildlife habitat; leaves and rhizomes have been used as food source by Native Americans

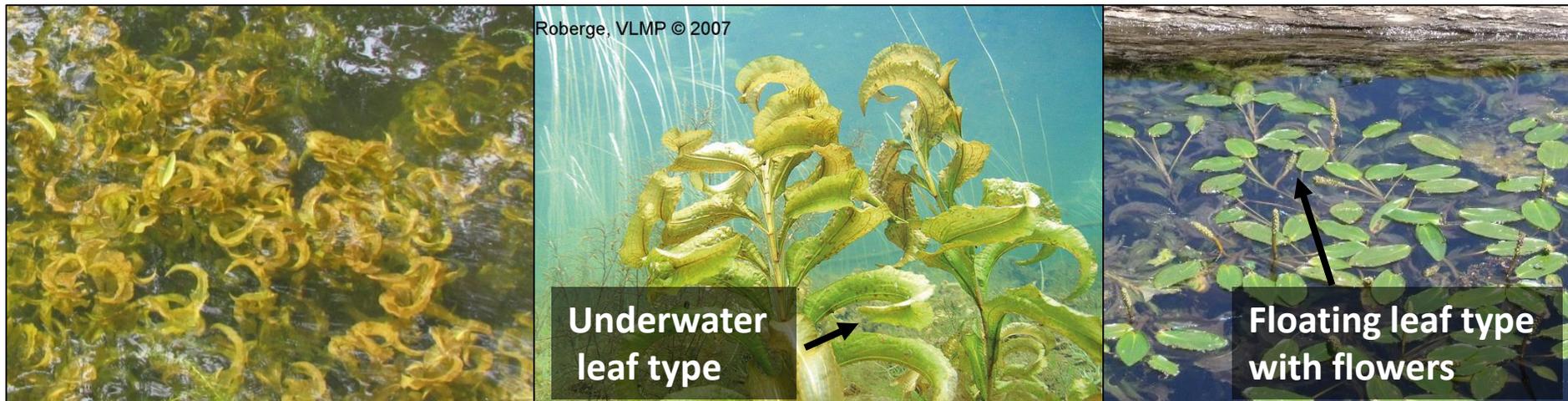


Large-Leaf Pondweed

Potamogeton amplifolius



- Second most widespread plant in Snohomish County
- Provides great cover for fish and food for aquatic life
- Can grow densely with patches shifting from year-to-year
- 2 distinct leaf types
 - Underwater leaf type - broad and arching
 - Floating leaf type - bright green often with flower
- Most common of several species of with floating leaves



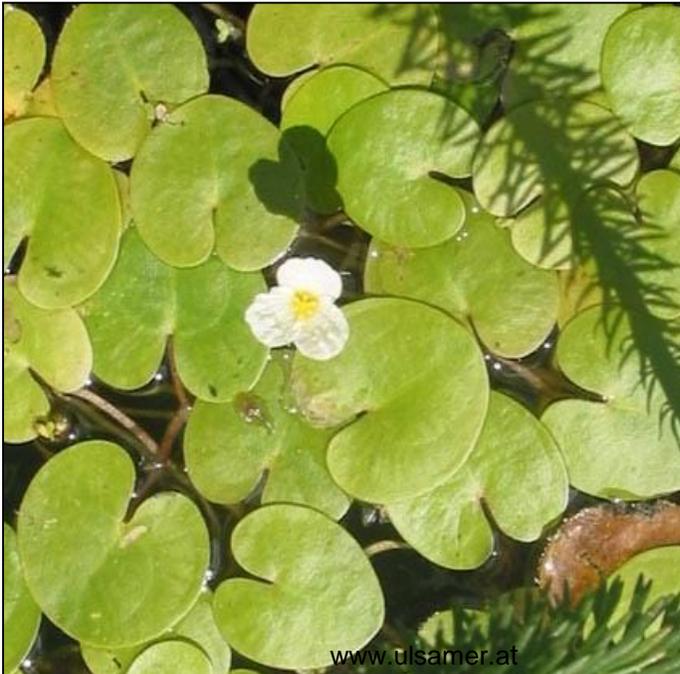
European frog-bit

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

- Small, floating, heart-shaped leaves; white flowers
- Problem plant in Ontario and northeast U.S.
- Established in Meadow Lake (only location in WA)
- Aggressively spreads forming thick mats
- Produces from seeds and over-wintering turions



**Overwintering
turions**



Lesser duckweed

Lemna minor



- Tiny flowering plants; floating on surface
- No true leaves; single rootlet below each plant
- Can form thick mats or scums
- High nutrient value for fish and wildlife; habitat for aquatic invertebrates

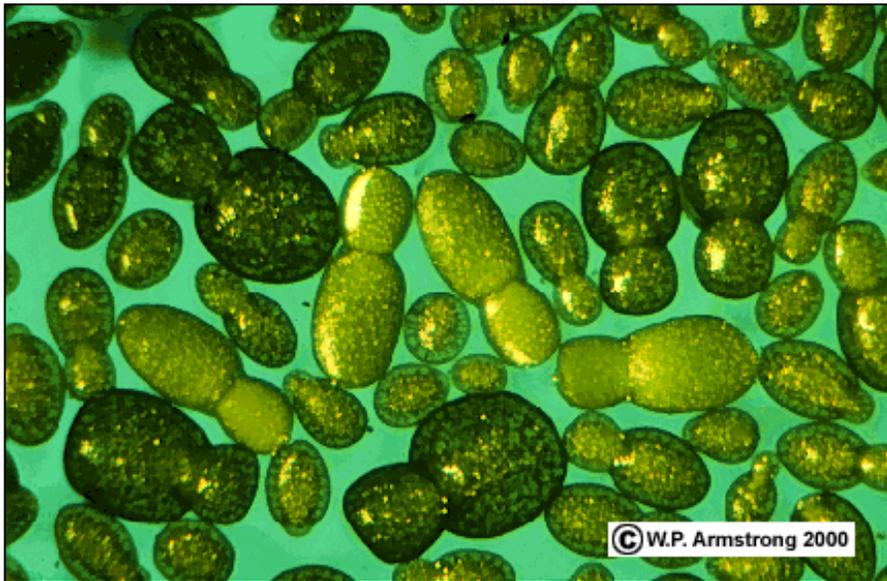


Watermeal

Wolffia spp.



- Smallest flowering plant in world
- No true leaves; no roots
- Can form thick mats or scums



Need more plant ID help?

- Aquatic plants are often hard to identify and not all are shown in this presentation. We can help - email a photo to lakes@snoco.org.
- See what plants have been found in your lake from the WA State Department of Ecology [Lake Database](#) or see their full aquatic plant [identification manual](#).

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