

## *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

buttonbush



**Appearance:** Shrub, or small tree, rarely to 50 ft. tall; bark becoming rough, ridged and furrowed or bumpy.

**Leaves:** Opposite (may sometimes be 3-4 at a joint), deciduous, stalked, blades elliptic or ovate to oblong-ovate, 3 1/2 - 6 in. long, bases rounded to tapering, tips pointed or long-pointed.

**Flowers:** In dense, globular, stalked heads 1 - 1 1/4 in. in diameter, sepals 4, united, petals 4, white, united funnel-form, 1/4 - 3/8 in. long, stamens 4, style long, extending beyond rest of flower.

**Fruit:** Forming a dense ball, each fruit about 1/4 in. long, splitting into 2 or 4 nutlets.

**Location:**

Occurs in the central region of Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Cyperus odoratus*

green flatsedge



**Appearance:** Coarse annual herbs, the stem solitary or tufted, 4 - 30 in. tall, commonly purplish and thick at base.

**Leaves:** Loose sheaths at base, some with leaf blades, blades to 3/8 in. wide, the longer reaching the inflorescence; inflorescence with 3 - 10 conspicuous leaflike bracts, the larger ones much longer than inflorescence, to 12 in. long and 5/8 in. wide; very variable in size and density.

**Flowers:** In very narrow spikelets, these in bottlebrush-like clusters; scales overlapping, 1/16 - 1/8 in. long.

**Fruit:** A narrow, brown 3-angled nutlet; the spikelets breaking up into 1-seeded segments when mature.

**Location:**

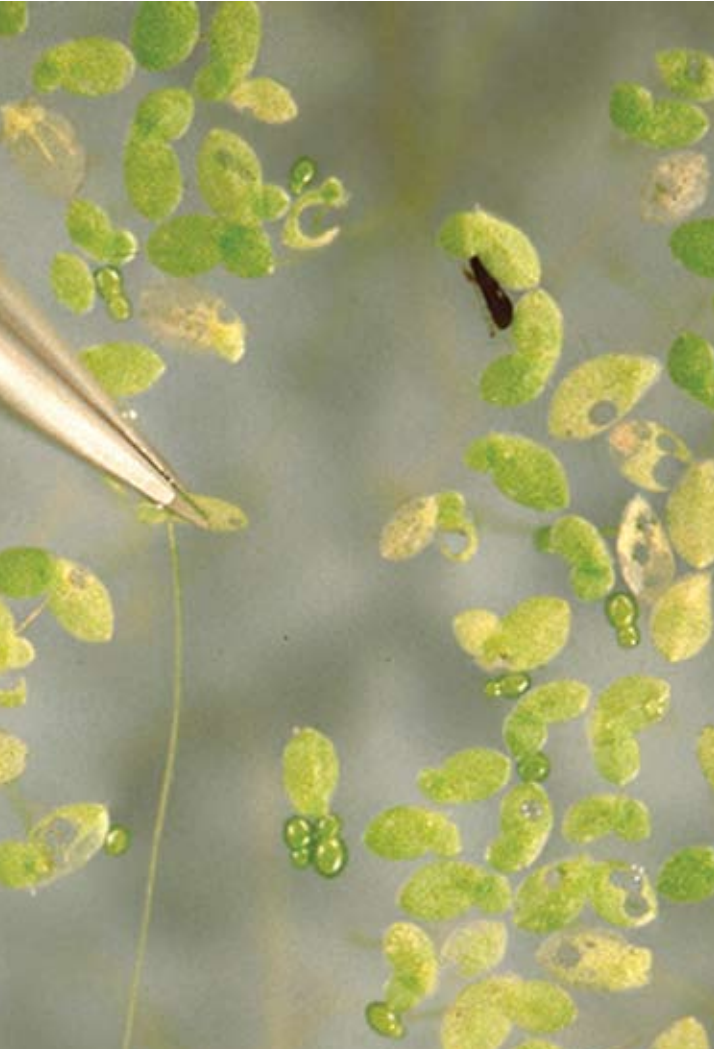
Occurs in the central region of Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Lemna valdiviana*

small duckweed

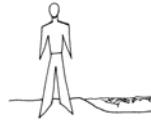


**Appearance:** Small, floating plants, with no clear distinction between leaf and stem.

**Leaves:** Ovate or oblong, usually floating at surface (the upper surface resisting wetting); 2 - several (older and younger) leaves usually attached to each other; each leaf with 1 slender root on underside.

**Flowers:** Very tiny, rarely formed.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Limnobiium spongia*

frog's bit



**Appearance:** Aquatic perennial herb, spreading by runners, younger plants floating, with heart-shaped leaves at surface of water, such leaves are thickened by spongy air tissue below; older (flowering) plants are generally rooted in mud.

**Leaves:** Thin, long-stalked; stalk up to 6 in. long, blade ovate or subcircular, to about 2 3/4 in. long and wide, the base notched or not, tip blunt or rounded.

**Flowers:** Unisexual, solitary from leaf axils, much shorter than the leaves; sepals 3, petals 3, narrow and white; stamens 6 - 12.

**Fruit:** A many-seeded berry, seeds minutely spiny; fruit stalk curling downward into water.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

## *Najas guadalupensis*

southern naiad



**Appearance:** Submersed herbs, usually rooting at base; stems slender, much branched.

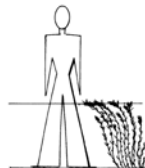
**Leaves:** Opposite, with sheathing bases, very narrow or narrowly lanceolate; with tiny, sharp teeth.

**Flowers:** Very small, axillary, unisexual, sometimes M/F, without sepals or petals, male flower of 1 stamen, female flower of ovary with 2-3 stigmas.

**Fruit:** A single seed in a thin fruit coat.

**Location:**

Occurs in the central, southwest and southeast regions of Florida.



**Field Notations**

# *Nymphaea odorato*

fragrant water lily



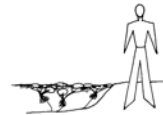
**Appearance:** Large perennial aquatic herb, from a long, thick rhizome.

**Leaves:** Alternate, long-stalked, usually floating (submersed leaves thinner and more delicate); blade broad or sub-circular, deeply notched at base, the lobes at base usually pointed.

**Flowers:** Attractive, white, each on a separate stalk, borne at or above water surface (some open only during the night, others only during the day); many petals and stamens.

**Fruit:** Stems coiling, developing under water.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Phragmites australis*

common reed



**Appearance:** Perennial herb to 16 ft. tall with extensive underground and aboveground runners forming large colonies, erect stems and runners thick.

**Leaves:** Flat, 9 - 25 in. long, 1/2 - 1 1/4 in. wide, smooth above and below.

**Flowers:** 3/8 - 5/8 in. long, hairy.

**Fruit:** 1/16 in. long, elliptic, rough, reddish-brown.

### **Location:**

Occurs in the central region of Florida.



### **Field Notations**

## *Pontederia cordata*

pickerelweed



**Appearance:** Perennial herbs, with creeping rhizome.

**Leaves:** From base, clustered, long-stalked, the blades narrowly lanceolate to (usually) ovate, with a notch at base; inflorescence a stalked raceme with a leaflike bract on stalk, base of flower cluster with small, folded bract.

**Flowers:** Blue marked with yellow or white, 2-lipped, with 6 petals and 6 stamens of two sizes.

**Fruit:** 1-seeded, ridged and crested.

**Location:**

Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Sagittaria lancifolia*

duck potato



**Appearance:** Perennial herbs, sometimes with rhizome or rhizome and potato-like corms, roots branched.

**Leaves:** Clustered, linear and slightly flattened, straplike or stalked with blades elliptical to ovate or broadly arrowhead-shaped; inflorescence stalked, erect or sprawling, with few to many flowers clustered at joints.

**Flowers:** Unisexual, usually with the female lower and the male above in the same inflorescence; sepals 3, green, petals 3, white or pinkish, sometimes with spots of other colors at bases; stamens many; pistils many.

**Fruit:** A cluster of 1-seeded nutlets (1 from each pistil).

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Scirpus validus*

soft-stem bulrush



**Appearance:** Coarse, perennial herb, with rhizome; stems cylindric or slightly 3-angled, spongy, to 10 ft. tall, up to 3/4 in. thick at base.

**Leaves:** Only sheaths at base of stem; inflorescence with a single bract that looks like a continuation of the stem, 1/4 - 3 in. long.

**Flowers:** In spikelets, these irregularly clustered on stalks of varying lengths, some blunt; scales chestnut brown, spiral, overlapping, pointed, to 3/8 in. long.

**Fruit:** A smooth nutlet, with 4 - 6 barbed bristles longer than the nutlet.

**Location:**

Occurs in the central, southwest and southeast regions of Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Spartina alterniflora*

smooth cord grass



**Appearance:** Perennial herbs, 3 - 12 ft. tall, erect, in clumps or creeping with underground runners.

**Leaves:** Blades long, tough, flat to rolled; leaf sheaths longer than joints of the stem, overlapping; seedheads with 2 - many branches either spreading or appressed to stalk.

**Flowers:** In 2 rows on lower side of branches, flattened, often twisted, often appressed to branch, branch tips without flowers.

**Fruit:** 1/8 - 5/16 in. long, flattened.

**Location:**

Occurs in the southwest and southeast regions of Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Spirodela polyrhiza*

giant duckweed

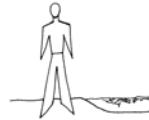


**Appearance:** Small, floating plants, with no clear distinction between leaf and stem.

**Leaves:** Broadly obovate to nearly obovate, usually with red dot in center, 1/32 - 5/16 in. long and nearly as wide, floating at surface (upper surface resists wetting), usually 2 - 3 connected; each "leaf" with 5 - 20 slender roots attached beneath.

**Flowers:** Very tiny, rarely formed.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Typha species*

cat-tails



**Appearance:** Perennial herb to 8 ft. tall, with thick rhizome.

**Leaves:** Straplike, stiff, in 2 ranks, sheathing near base.

**Flowers:** Unisexual, densely crowded in cylindrical, terminal spike, the male flowers above the female.

**Fruit:** A sausage-shaped cluster of nutlets surrounded by chaff.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout  
Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Vallisneria americana*

tape grass



**Appearance:** Submersed perennial herb, spreading by runners.

**Leaves:** Alternate, densely clustered, straplike, varying in width and length.

**Flowers:** Unisexual, M/F; male flowers short-stalked, with a sheath enclosing many small flowers with 3 sepals and 2 anthers; male flowers break free and float to surface; female flower long-stalked, reaching surface, where pollination may occur.

**Fruit:** A slender, banana-like capsule with many tiny seeds; stalk may curl after flowering, pulling the fruit into the water.

**Location:**

Occurs in the northwest, northeast, and central regions of Florida.



### Field Notations

## *Wolffia columbiana*

water meal

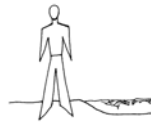


**Appearance:** Tiny, floating, rootless plants, less than 1/16 in. long.

**Leaves:** Ellipsoid to ovoid, often a larger and a smaller (younger) leaf connected; body somewhat flattened or crested above, with a flat-topped hump.

**Flowers:** Tiny, rarely seen.

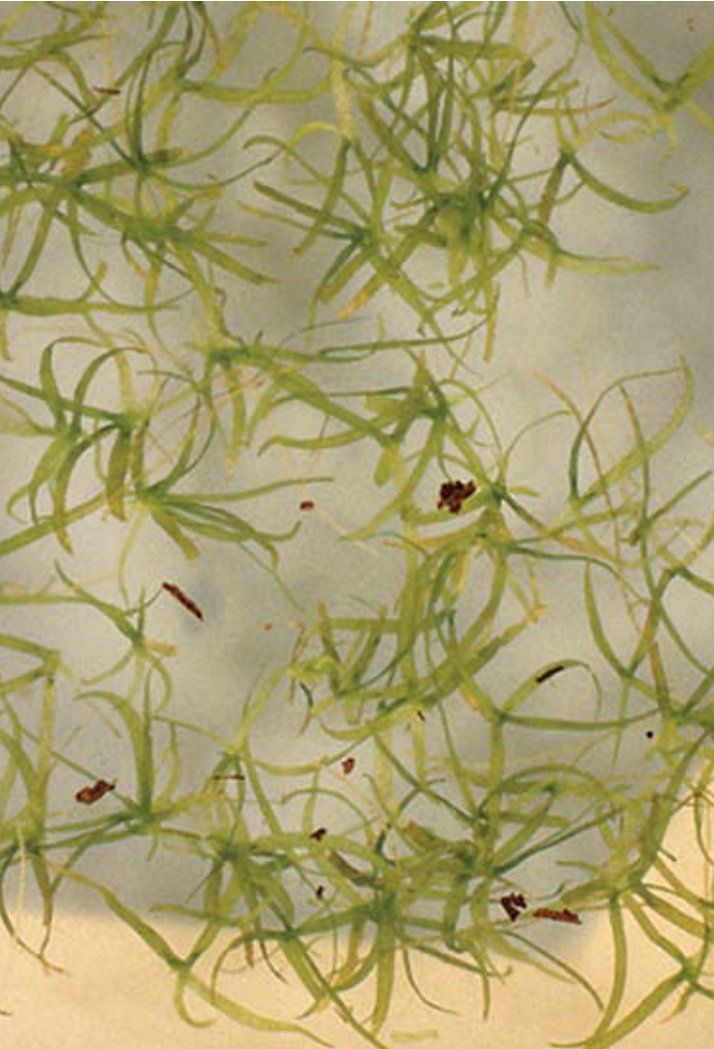
**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**

## *Wolffiella floridana*

mud-midget



**Appearance:** Tiny, floating plants, without roots, without distinction between leaf and stem.

**Leaves:** Strap or tongue shaped, flattened with broad base and abruptly pointed tip, 2 - several commonly attached; all surfaces wettable (floating under surface film).

**Flowers:** Tiny and rarely seen.

**Location:**  
Occurs throughout Florida.



**Field Notations**