

Coontail

Ceratophyllum demersum

-Coontail has long, trailing stems that lack true roots. However, the plant may be loosely anchored to the sediment by pale modified leaves. The leaves are stiff and arranged in whorls of 5-12 at a node. Each leaf is forked once or twice. The leaf divisions have teeth along the margins that are tipped with a small spine. Whorls of leaves are usually more closely spaced near the ends of branches, creating the raccoon tail appearance.

-The flowers are tiny and hidden in the axils of the leaves. Male and female flowers are on separate plants.

-This fish cover produces phosphates in the water.

-Whenever I am ice-fishing and I see that there is Coontail underneath the hole, I will stick to the area as tightly as I can. One of the reasons that I stick so tight to it is because the thick leaves of Coontail make excellent cover for small fish and a home for invertebrates, thus attracting bigger fish.



A lake is the landscape's most expressive feature. It is earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.

-Henry David Thoreau, 1849