

# Forked Duckweed

*Lemna triscula*

-Forked Duckweed has a simple, flattened leaf body or frond that is long stalked with three faint nerves and a single root. Lateral fronds often remain attached to the parent frond, creating a “rowboat and oars” shape. These angular duckweeds are often hooked together in a tangled mass. Flowers are seldom produced and can only be seen with magnification.

-Forked Duckweed is often found just beneath the surface of quiet water. Because it is free floating, it drifts with the wind and current and is not dependent on depth, sediment type, or water clarity. However, there must be adequate nutrients in the water to sustain its growth.

-The growth cycle of Forked Duckweed is similar to that of other temperate climate duckweeds. It over-winters by producing winter buds that rest on the sediment. In spring the buds become buoyant and float to the surface. Winter buds are formed in the fall and sink to the bottom.

-Do ducks eat Duckweed? You better believe that they do!

