

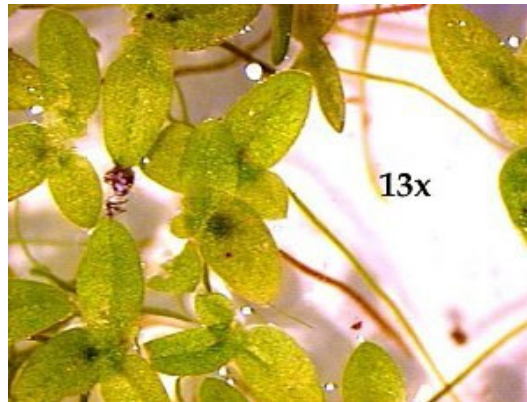
# Lesser Duckweed

*Lemna minor*

-Summer had arrived...a Mallard devoured a meandering trail through a carpet of small clover-shaped plants that bore its name. The duckweeds formed a living blanket covering the quiet corners of the pond. A closer look revealed a cloth woven from a variety of duckweed species creating a quilt of subtle textures and color.

-Lesser Duckweed has round to oval-shaped leaf bodies called fronds that float individually or in groups on the water surface. Each frond has three faint nerves, one root and no stems. The flowers can only be seen with magnification and are seldom found. The plants commonly multiply by budding, remaining attached in small colonies of 2-8 leaf-like plants. Since the plant is free-floating, it must obtain all of its nutrition from the water by absorbing nutrients through its dangling roots and leaf undersurface.

-Lesser Duckweed is a nutritious food source that can provide up to 90% of the dietary needs for a variety of ducks and geese. Muskrats, beavers, and fish also consume it. Rafts of duckweed offer shade and cover for fish and invertebrates. Extensive mats of duckweed can also inhibit mosquito breeding.



**If Donald Duck never wore pants, how come he wrapped a towel around his waist when he got out of the tub?**

**-Anonymous**