

Sago Pondweed

Potamogeton pectinatus

-The stems of Sago Pondweed sprout from slender rhizomes that are peppered with starchy tubers. The leaves are very thin and resemble pine needles, ending in a sharp point. Each branch may be forked several times into a spreading, fan-like arrangement.

-Flowers and fruits are produced on a slender stalk that may be submersed or floating on the water surface. The flowers and fruit are arranged in small whorls that are slightly spaced apart on the stalk. This creates the appearance of beads on a string. Each fruit is oval to egg-shaped in outline. The fruit is rounded on the back with a short beak and sometimes a low dorsal ridge, two lateral ridges, or both.

-The Sago Pondweed is a supreme aquatic plant for shoreline restoration. It is considered one of the top food producers for waterfowl, and it is one of the best plants for improving the fishery of a water body. Both the fruits and tubers are heavily grazed and are considered critical for a variety of migratory waterfowl. It also provides food and shelter for young trout and other juvenile fish.

-Sago Pondweed has evolved adaptations that allow it to survive in low light conditions. Most of its leaves grow in a fanlike spray on the water surface, and it maintains a backup energy reserve in its tubers. Furthermore, the production of Sago Pondweed is remarkable. Because it is so valuable for waterfowl, Sago Pondweed has been planted in shallow lakes and wildlife ponds to create additional duck habitat.

-Any serious and self-respecting fisherman/sportsman will want to plant some Sago Pondweed as part of their shoreline restoration!



You never miss the water 'till the well runs dry.

-Rowland Howard