

# Leafy Pondweed (Native)

*Potamogeton foliosus*



## Aquatic Native Species Are Under Threat From Aquatic Invasive Species.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have a direct negative impact not only on human recreation in Lake Tahoe, they also threaten the very existence of native aquatic wildlife. There are currently several invasive plant, invertebrate, mollusk and fish species in the lake. Oftentimes this species out-compete native species for resources, predate on them, and generally degrade water and ecosystem quality. Research, monitoring, and efforts to manage established AIS populations and prevent new AIS infestations are all crucial to protect native aquatic wildlife of the Tahoe Basin. A diverse group of partner agencies, including TahoeRCD, University of Nevada-Reno, University of California-Davis and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, are dedicated to collaborating on these efforts.

## Importance of Coontail in the Tahoe Basin:

Leafy Pondweed plays an important role in the Basin ecosystem by providing cover and food for a variety of aquatic animals through both its vegetation and seeds.



**Habitat:** Wetlands and shallow standing water

**Characteristics:** Perennial herb, primarily underwater except for flowering tip of the stem

**Leaves:** Linear leaves are 2-10 cm long and 1.-2.5 mm wide

**Flowers:** Occur in 2-4 whorls around emergent flower spike

**Stems:** Slightly flattened with a fibrous root system emerging from threadlike rhizomes

**Spread:** Rhizomes and seeds

**Native Distribution:** North and Central America

Photo credit: UC-Berkeley

## How can I help protect this species?

- ◆ Know your local plants! By being able to identify native from non-native plants, you can avoid disturbing or pulling native species
- ◆ Check for hitchhikers before you go in the water. Boats (motorized and non-motorized) and watersport equipment can pick up invasive species in other water bodies and inadvertently introduced them to the Basin ecosystem

