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Wild Celery (*Vallisneria americana*)

Common names: Water celery, eelgrass, tapegrass.

Location: Lakes in depths up to 15 feet and streams; prefers semi-hard bottom such as sand covered with a thin layer of muck.

Description: Leaves are ribbon-like, dark-green, and grow below the water surface; rooted in mud; in late summer, produces a small, whitish-yellow flower, supported by a coiled stalk; often grows in beds amid pondweeds and other submerged plants.

Hints to identify: Unbranched leaves extending from the lake bottom to the water surface; flowers (and occasionally some leaves) float on the surface; leaves are attached to a horizontal central stem right above lake bottom.

Importance of plant: Provides shade and shelter for bluegills, young perch, and largemouth bass; choice food of waterfowl, particularly diving ducks; attracts muskrats, marsh birds, and shore birds.

Management strategy: See [DNR regulations](#). Because wild celery is an excellent wildlife food, it is usually best left alone. Abundant growth during July and August in shallow water may interfere with recreation. **Herbicides don't work well to control this plant.** Hand-pulling or raking sometimes works, though floating, uprooted plants often re-establish themselves in shallow water.

