

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Potamogeton perfoliatus - clasping leaf pondweed Pondweed Family (Potamogetonaceae)

Rarity Rank: SH/G5 (Historical in LA)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------|-----------|---|------|---|--------|
| State | | | | | |
| Global | | | | | |
| | imperiled | | rare | | secure |

Range: Quebec and Ontario south to the Gulf Coast states; also British Columbia and Alaska

Recognition:

- Submerged aquatic plant, rooted in the substrate and having whitish to pinkish rhizomes
- Stems erect, submerged, slender, short, much branched
- Leaves egg shaped or rounded, up to 6 cm long by 1.5 cm wide, bases heart-shaped and clasping stem
- Flowers in dense spikes on the end of stalk

Flowering Time: June to October

Light Requirement: Submerged aquatic in open, clear water bodies

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Brackish or calcareous lakes, in Louisiana recorded only from Lake Pontchartrain. However, high salinities associated with drought during 1998 to 2001 have apparently extirpated this species in Lake Pontchartrain.

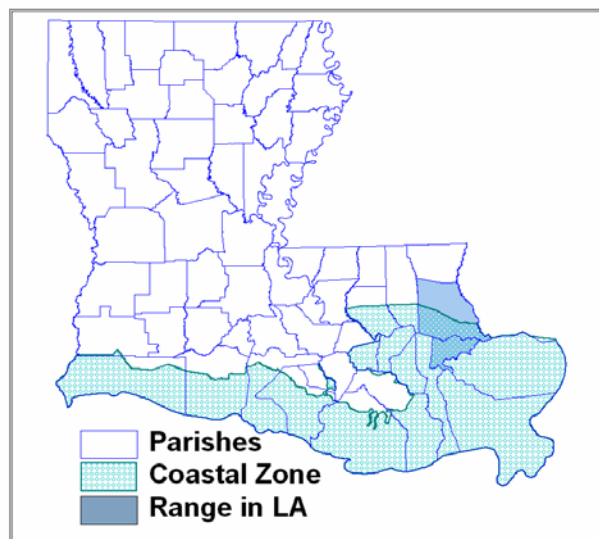
Threats:

Unnatural levels salt water intrusion

Beneficial Management Practices:

Maintain natural seasonal salinity variation in estuaries

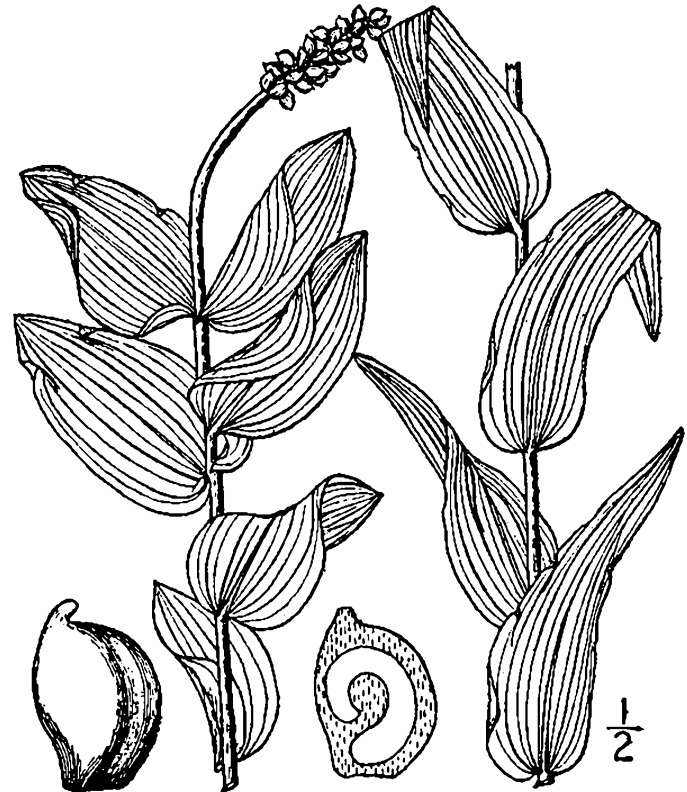
LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



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Illustration by Kurt Stuber; courtesy of University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 1: 80.

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Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or 225-765-2811

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