

***Potamogeton foliosus* Raf ssp. *fibrillosus* (Fern)**

Haynes & C.B. Hellquist

leafy pondweed

Potamogetonaceae (Pondweed Family)

**Status:** State Review Group 1

**Rank:** G5T2T4SNR

**General Description:** Adapted from Cronquist et al. (1969):

*Potamogeton foliosus* ssp. *fibrillosus* is an aquatic perennial that is completely submersed, arising from a dense mat of slender rhizomes. The slender stems are 8-40 in. (20-101.6 cm) long, freely branched, greenish, slightly compressed and obscurely winged, and narrowed at the nodes. The leaf blades are directly attached to the stem, with basal glands at the base of the leaves. The blades are narrowly linear, and taper to a point at the apex. The leaves are ½ to 4 in. (1-10 cm) long, less than 1/8 in. (0.3-2.5 mm) wide, and 1-5 nerved. There is a pair of leaf-like appendages found at the bases of the leaves (stipules). The stipules are firm and strongly fibrous; the fibers are free at the tip of the stipule and become longer as the membranous part of the stipule disintegrates, and eventually become free and persistent. The leafless flower stalks are rather stout and 1/8 to ¾ in. (0.3-2 cm) long. The inflorescence is not continuous. The flowers are minute, <1/16 in. (0.5-1 mm) long, and have greenish tepals.

**Identification Tips:** There are two subspecies of *Potamogeton foliosus*: ssp. *fibrillosus*, and ssp. *foliosus*. The latter occurs throughout Washington, while the former is historically known from Pierce County. The stipules of ssp. *fibrillosus* are firm, with persistent fibers, while the stipules of ssp. *foliosus* are delicate, tending to completely disintegrate, and the fibers are not persistent. The ssp. *fibrillosus* often has basal glands present at the base of the leaves and the inflorescence is interrupted, while the basal glands of ssp. *foliosus* are not present and the inflorescence is not interrupted.

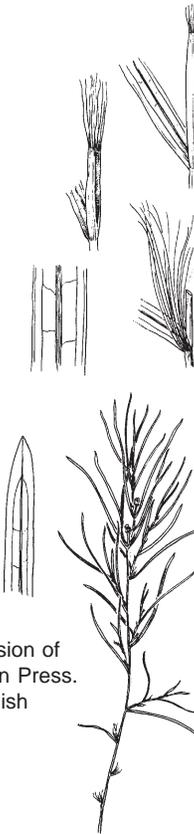
**Phenology:** In Washington the taxon was observed in August.

**Range:** This taxon occurs in Washington to Montana, south to Utah and Oregon to California. In Washington it is historically known from one 1933 collection from Pierce County.

**Habitat:** In Washington the taxon was found submerged in a lake at 320 feet (97 m) elevation. No associated species have been documented.

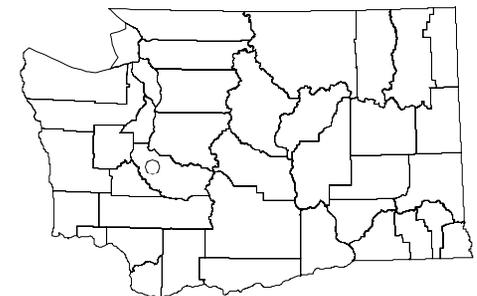
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Known distribution  
of *Potamogeton foliosus*  
ssp. *fibrillosus*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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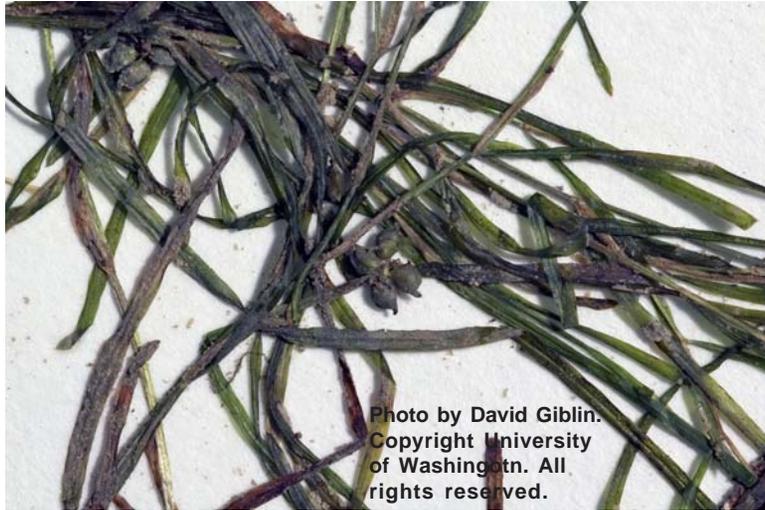


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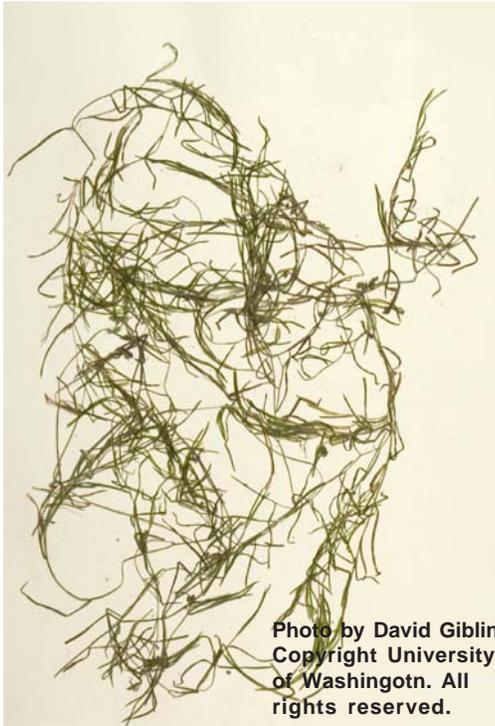


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**Ecology:** Throughout its range this taxon typically occurs in shallow ponds, lakes, springs, and slow-moving streams.

**State Status Comments:** Because this taxon was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time. It is currently known from only one historical occurrence.

**Inventory Needs:** The known occurrence site and nearby lakes and ponds should be revisited and systematically surveyed for possible individuals.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** The shore of the historical occurrence site has been highly developed, and the water quality has probably declined since 1933.

**Comments:** Hitchcock et al. (1969) refer to the taxon as *Potamogeton fibrillosus* Fern. Another synonym is *Potamogeton foliosus* Raf var. *fibrillosus* (Fern) Haynes & Reveal.

**References:**

Cronquist et al. 1977. *Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A. Volume 6: the Monocotyledons.* The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 584 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons.* University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 914 pp.