AQUATIC WEED IDENTIFICATION and CONTROL

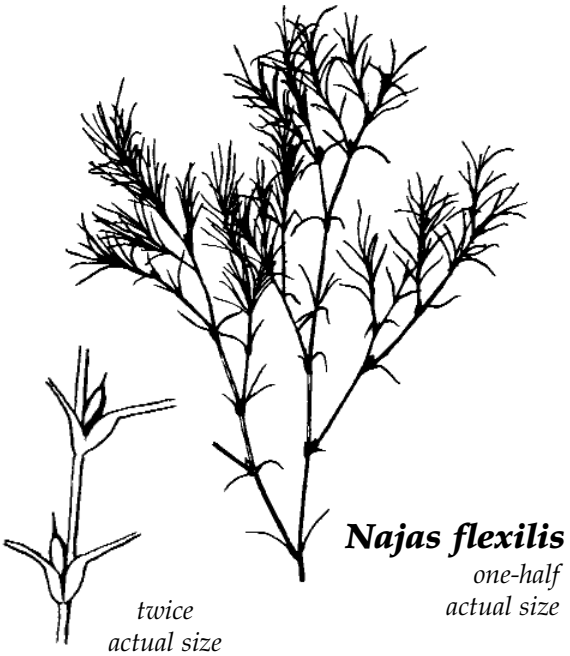
Bushy Pondweed

Bushy pondweed (*Najas* spp.) is a rooted, underwater plant with slender, branching stems. The leaves are narrow and ribbonlike, generally 1 to 2 cm (0.4 to 0.8 inches) long and 0.4 to 0.8 mm (0.02 to 0.03 inches) wide. The leaves are opposite, or in whorls of three, and leaf margins have coarse or fine spines.

The bushy pondweed is abundant throughout Mississippi in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams. Generally, it is found in alkaline waters but it can tolerate a wide range of chemical and physical factors. Where found, *Najas* becomes abundant in shallow water, forming dense mats. It can cause severe problems in commercial and sportfishing ponds.

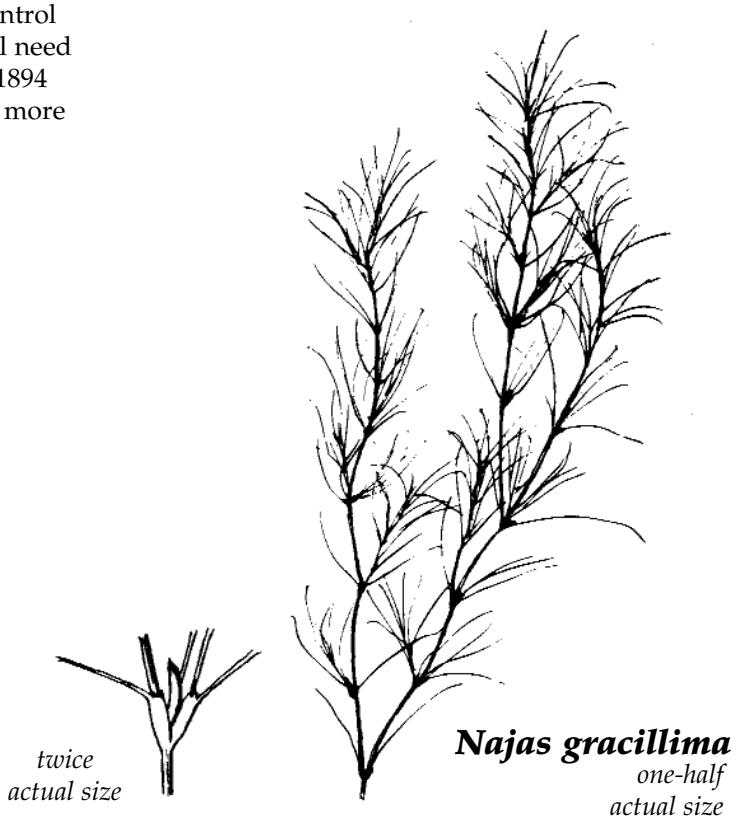
You can control bushy pondweed with any of the treatments listed. **Read and follow label instructions before using any chemical in water.**

(a) Aquathol (Endothall, potassium salt) – 2 gallons per surface acre, although it may be necessary to use as much as 2 gallons per acre foot in some cases.
(b) Reward (Diquat) – 1½ gallons per surface acre.
(c) Grass carp – highly effective in providing good control of this aquatic weed. Generally, 5 to 10 grass carp per surface acre will control weeds. Extremely inundated ponds will need higher stocking levels. See Publication 1894 *Grass Carp in Mississippi Farm Ponds* for more information.



twice actual size

Najas flexilis
one-half actual size



twice actual size

Najas gracillima
one-half actual size

Coontail

Coontail, or hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), never grows above water. Usually it does not have roots. It has elongated stems with branches that repeatedly fork; the leaves are whorled with a serrated margin. Each leaf is divided only once.

This plant is abundant in ditches, ponds, and lakes. It can also occur in sluggish or slow-moving streams. There are several species of coontail, and they can be highly variable, depending on the habitat. Coontail occurs primarily in slightly acidic (pH 6.8) waters, but it can tolerate a wide range of pH.

You can control coontail with any of the treatments listed. **Read and follow label instructions before using any chemical in water.**

(a) Aquathol (Endothall) – 2 gallons per surface acre; although it may be necessary to use as much as 2 gallons per acre foot in some cases.

(b) Reward (Diquat) – 1 to 1½ gallons per acre foot.

(c) Grass carp – highly effective in providing good control of this aquatic weed. Generally, 5 to 10 grass carp per surface acre will control weeds. Extremely inundated ponds will need higher stocking levels. See Publication 1894 *Grass Carp in Mississippi Farm Ponds* for more information.

We have taken special care to make certain that all suggested herbicide treatments are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency for use in the manner described. Registrations for specific practices are often changed or deleted; therefore, treatments suggested in this information sheet may not remain current indefinitely. Read and observe the manufacturer's label to prevent misuse of a herbicide. It is not intended or proposed that usage of any given practice suggested in this information sheet be in violation with existing registration or manufacturer's label.

If you fail to carefully read and follow suggested treatments, you could cause extensive damage to the environment, crops, livestock, or humans.

Mississippi State University Extension Service

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