



Elodea canadensis

Common Name(s):

Canadian pondweed

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Widely naturalised through the North and South Islands.

Habitat:

Aquatic: a submerged plant in moderately fast flowing to still water bodies.

Features*:

Submerged, bottom-rooting perennial, growing to 8+ m. Stems slender, brittle, branched, 1 mm diameter leaves in whorls of 3 (opposite at base), linear, 6-12 x 2 mm, translucent dark green. Male (very rare) and female flowers on separate plants. Flowers on surface, on long thread-like stalks, 5-petalled, 5 mm diam, white, tinged purple. No seed set in NZ.

Flowering:

November, December, January

Fruiting:

No fruit seen in NZ

***Attribution:**

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3873



Caption: Flowers

Photographer: Donna Sutherland (NIWA)



Caption: Underwater plants

Photographer: Rohan Wells, NIWA