

Native Pondweeds

Description

P. ochreatus and *P. cheesemaniae*:

- Submerged leaves up to 10cm or more long, with distinctive longitudinal veins.
- Leaves alternate along the stems and have entire, smooth margins.
- When flowering has a dense spike, 15-20mm long, produced at the water surface.
- *P. cheesemaniae* - can also have floating oval shaped leaves.



P. pectinatus:

- Often described as the grassy-leaved pondweed.
- Leaves are long, thin and thread-like with prominent mid-vein.
- Forms small tubers.



Similar species

Not to be confused with *Potamogeton crispus* (curly pondweed), with wavy, toothed, leaf margins.

Presence in New Zealand

Widespread and common throughout New Zealand.

P. pectinatus is more scattered and prefers brackish waters.

Management Value

Native pondweeds have been identified as key submerged plant indicators for the assessment of lake ecological condition using LakeSPI.

Included Species

Potamogeton ochreatus (blunt pondweed)

Potamogeton cheesemaniae (red pondweed)

Potamogeton pectinatus (fennel-leaved pondweed)