



Lake George Association

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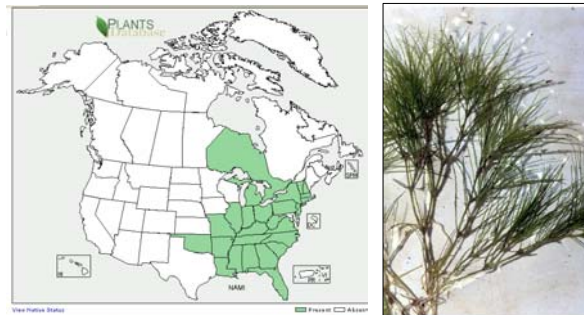
Contact: Emily DeBolt
Director of Education
Lake George Association
Phone: (518) 668-5595

New Invasive Species Found in Lake George

Lake George, NY – Larry Eichler of the Darrin Freshwater Institute identified brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) growing near the launch at Dunham's Bay Marina this past summer. We don't know the extent of this plant's growth in the lake yet, but it is a safe bet to say that there probably just isn't one. This plant was also recently identified in Hadlock Pond this summer as well as being found in Lake Champlain. These are the first occurrences of this invasive species inside the Adirondack Park.

Brittle naiad (also called slender or spiny naiad) is originally from Europe, and while it prefers sand and gravel, it can thrive on a wide range of substrates. It is tolerant of turbidity, which probably helps it grow at boat launch areas. It is a submersed, rooted plant growing up 5 feet or more in length. It has very small, slender leaves that are serrated in the edges. It can be confused with some native naiads, pondweeds, and stoneworts.

This plant has established in much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, spreading rapidly on boats moving between waterways. It crowds out native plants, and creates conditions adverse to fish and waterfowl.



(images from <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=NAMI>)

The LGA is a not-for-profit membership organization of people interested in working together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin. For more information, contact the LGA at (518) 668-3558 or check out LGA on the web at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org.

Lake George Association ♦ P.O. Box 408 ♦ Lake George, NY 12845
(518) 668-3558 ♦ Fax (518) 668-4702 ♦ www.lakegeorgeassociation.org