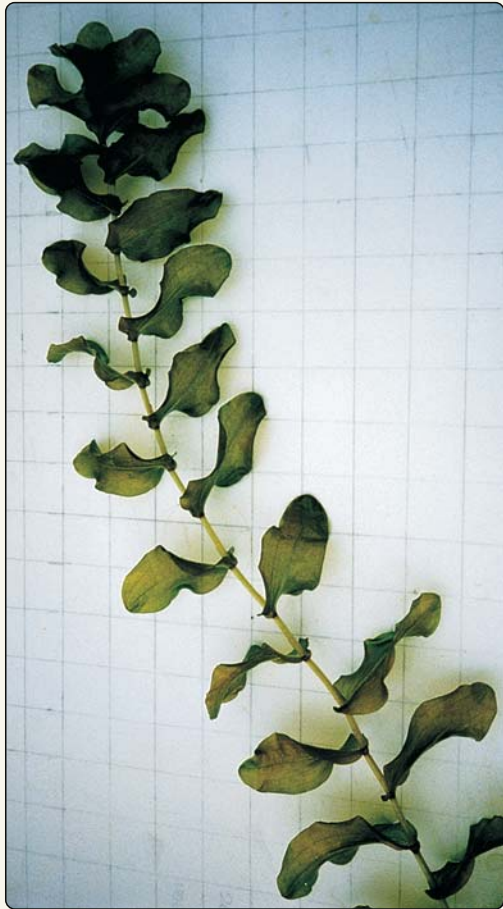
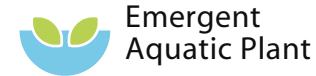


Clasped pondweed (*Potamogeton perfoliatus*)



Leaves wrap around the stem

Clasped pondweed is a submerged aquatic plant that occurs in still and flowing freshwaters in temperate climates.

The most characteristic feature of this species is the way the leaves wrap around the stem, a feature not found in the other pondweeds in New Zealand. Clasped pondweed has long, trailing, leafy stems and is bottom rooting with slender rhizomes. Leaves are very thin with wavy margins, appearing translucent and are either pale green or bronze in colour. Its flowers and fruit are produced during summer and autumn on a short spike either floating on or held just above the water surface.

The plant spreads by seed dispersed by waterfowl, and stem fragments that could be transported to other waterways by machinery, boats and trailers or nets.

This species is believed to have been eradicated from New Zealand, but would have the potential to become a very serious problem. If you think you might have found it, contact your Regional Council at once.