

Southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*)



Submerged
Aquatic Plant



Leaves have definite teeth on their margins



Forms dense mats

Southern naiad is a submerged aquatic plant that can grow in still or slow flowing waters. A similar species to the oxygen weeds, the stems of the naiad are long, slender and many branched. It differs from them in having extremely narrow, 2 cm long leaves, mostly crowded on short lateral branches or sometimes in whorls of three. The leaves have definite teeth on their margins, and are deep green to purplish-green. Its flowers are small and inconspicuous.

Southern naiad spreads by seed and stem fragments.

This species does not at present occur in New Zealand but has the potential to be an important and serious waterweed if it becomes established. Contact your Regional Council if you think you have found it.