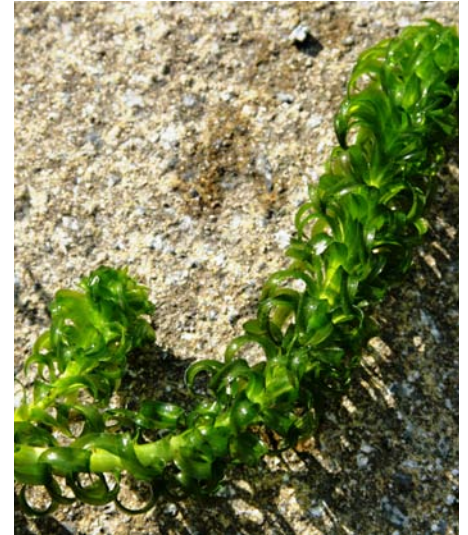




CURLY WATERWEED (*Lagarosiphon major*),

also known as curly water thyme and often incorrectly called *Elodea crispata*, is widely distributed in Cornwall. It is a perennial aquatic plant with long, rounded, branching stems that are able to grow up to 3 m in still water. It grows submerged and rooted in mud. It is a robust plant with strongly recurved leaves (arched back towards the stem below) that whorl around the upper part of the stem and spiral around the lower stem. Leaves are between 6 mm and 30 mm in length and 1 to 3 mm wide. Flowers are inconspicuous and borne separately as male and female flowers. Plants spread mainly by vegetative propagation through detached stem fragments that easily establish. It can usually be identified throughout the seasons.



Elodea canadensis
Photo: GBNSS, with thanks to British Waterways



Elodea nuttallii
Photo: GBNSS, with thanks to British Waterways



Egeria densa



Hippuris vulgaris
Photo: GBNSS

DO NOT CONFUSE WITH

- Curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus* has a similar common name but is unrelated and is not physically similar.
- Canadian/Nuttall's waterweeds (*Elodea* species) are also submerged non-native plants but these species are less robust. Their leaves are not so regularly recurved and are positioned in whorls of 3-4.
- Large-flowered waterweed (*Egeria densa*), again non-native, has leaves that are positioned usually in whorls of four to five. They are not as strongly recurved as curly waterweed and have a slightly toothed margin and an obvious midrib.
- Submerged mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*) can look similar but has weak leaves that are in whorls of 6-12 and it usually has upright emergent stems not seen in curly waterweed.