duckweeds

Lemna spp.

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Duckweeds are floating aquatic plants made of individual segments called fronds, each with one root. They do not have stems. The frond is oval to elliptical, flat, and less than one-third inch long. The flowers are very small.

Natural History

Duckweeds grow in standing water. They often are associated with water meal. These plants may produce a layer one to two inches thick on the water's surface. Duckweeds serve as food for waterfowl.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.