



Information Sheet 12 Curled Pondweed



In Britain, there are 21 species of Pondweed and 25 hybrids, some of which are rare and others very scarce. Only *P. natans*, *P. pectinatus*, *P. crispus*, *P. perfoliatus* and occasionally *P. berchtoldii* and *P. pusillus* should be considered as weed species. Pondweeds can be locally troublesome, impeding flow and interfering with recreation and navigation. Although these plants are often a nuisance, they are an important food source for many animals. *P. crispus* grows from creeping rhizomes, forming slender vertical stems and rooting from nodes on the rhizome. The leaves have a characteristic curly shape and have a finely serrated edge. It can grow in still and fast-flowing water. It prefers a mineral or organic-rich fine to medium substrate. It has no preference for nutrient status of the water and is found in clear mesotrophic to eutrophic waters of

between 0.5 and 2 m deep. It is common throughout the British Isles except in the highland regions of Scotland.

Mechanical control

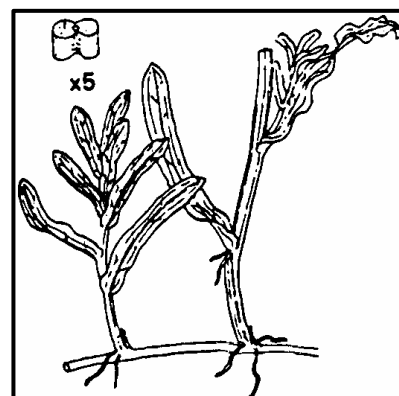
All pondweed species can be cut but regrowth, especially early in the summer, is often rapid. Where pondweeds have been cut regularly there is usually no evidence of any reduction in growth and the plant will tolerate this form of management almost indefinitely.

Mechanical control can be achieved by hand cutting, by weed bucket or by weed boat. Cutting should be as deep as possible to reduce the risk of regrowth later in the season. Cutting can be carried out at any time when there is sufficient growth to merit control, but as there is a risk of regrowth after early season cuts, cutting should normally not be carried out until mid to late summer.

Chemical control

In static water, herbicides can give good control of Pondweeds. In flowing waters, diquat alginate has achieved good control of many Pondweed species. This is no longer available for use.

In lakes and ponds dichlobenil (Midstream GSR, Casoron G, Luxan Dichlobenil Granules) or terbutryn (Clarosan) can be used. Use terbutryn where control of algae as well as Pondweeds and other submerged weed is required. Applications should be made early in the spring when growth is just starting.



Biological control

The use of herbivorous Grass Carp is appropriate as a control method for this plant. Common Carp, and other bottom feeding fish, which create turbid water, can also be effective in preventing regrowth of the plant after mechanical removal or control by a herbicide.

Environmental control

Shade will control most aquatic plants. This can be achieved by planting trees on the south side of waterbodies or by using a floating sheet of opaque material. Care must be taken when using the latter to prevent sudden deoxygenation. This is usually only appropriate in small areas.

Best option

In mixed stands: Remove as much of the plant as possible by mechanical means and apply spot treatments of Midstream GSR to remaining plant material. In mono-specific stands in enclosed still waters use Clarosan. If mechanical removal is not possible then treat with any of the appropriate herbicides being sure to read the label recommendations. If you prefer a biological control option then use Grass Carp. Be sure to obtain all the necessary agreements from Defra, the Environment Agency and English Nature.

