

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Richard Hartland, Beaufort



Flowering plants. Photographer Richard Hartland, Beaufort

Common name

Pondweed

Family

Potamogetonaceae

Where found

Aquatic in permanent waterbodies and streams. Widespread.

Notes

Aquatic **perennial** herb, **rhizomatous**. Stems round to flattened in cross section, to about 2 m long. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, with a **sheath** at the base, hairless. Submerged leaves thin and translucent, 5–10 cm long, 5–25 mm wide, stalkless or with short stalks, translucent, with 5–12 main longitudinal **veins**, margins **entire** to slightly wavy, bases and tips tapered. Floating leaves 1.5–5 cm long, 15–35 mm wide, stalked, forming a **terminal rosette**; more or less thick and leathery, dull, with 10–20 main longitudinal veins; bases rounded to **cordate**, tips blunt or pointed. Upper submerged leaves more like the floating leaves, but with much longer stalks than the floating leaves. Flowering stems above the water. Flowers 3–4 mm in diameter, with 4 '**petals**'. Flowering **spikes** about 12–24 flowered, 10–25 mm long at the seeding stage (excluding the non-seeding part of the axis), located on **rosettes** of floating leaves. Fruit reddish, brownish or green, the seeding **spike** slightly curved down. Flowers and fruits Sep.–Apr.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Potamogeton~cheesemanii> (accessed 2 February, 2021)

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