Minute Duckweed (Lemna minuta)

Order: Alismatales

Family: Araceae (Calla-lily Family)

Flowers: August

Lemna minuta is a minute perennial floating aquatic plant. It is found throughout the peninsula usually along calm streams. The fronds (1 or up to 4 but generally in 2's) of the plant body are floating and form large mats on the surface of the water. In the full sun, the fronds become very crowed together and plant bodies are generally in 2's. The fronds have 1 vein (nerve), that is sometimes faint, that extends beyond the midpoint to about 2/3 of the distance between node and apex. The fronds have air filled spaces (aerenchyma) inside that provide buoyancy for the fronds. The adaxial side of the frond can have a row of papillae along the midline or not. There is 1 root per frond and the root sheath is not winged. Anthocyanins and turions are not present. The flowers, when present, are extremely minute and very rare to occur.



Turion Duckweed (Lemna turionifera)

Order: Alismatales

Family: Araceae (Calla-lily Family)

Flowers: August

Lemna turionifera is a minute perennial floating aquatic plant. It has only been found in one spot on the peninsula. The fronds (1 or up to 4 but generally in 2's or 3's) of the plant body are floating and form large mats on the surface of the water. The fronds have 3 veins (nerves). All the veins are equal in length or the lateral veins slightly longer than the middle vein. The adaxial surface has a distinct row of papillae (bumps) on the midline. The fronds have air filled spaces (aerenchyma) inside that provide buoyancy for the fronds. There is 1 root per frond and the root sheath is not winged. Anthocyanins are present and will give the fronds a reddish color (the reddish color is more intense on the abaxial side of the frond). Turions (wintering buds with no roots) are also present and are green or brown (with the brown color in fall). Turions sink to the bottom. Flowers are extremely minute and very rare.

