

Brittle Naiad

[*Najas minor*]

DESCRIPTION

Brittle Naiad is a submersed annual plant that has many branched stems that can reach 4 feet in length. Leaves are opposite, linear, toothed, and 1 to 1 ½ inches in length. As the plant ages, the leaves become more brittle. As you move closer to the main stem of the plant, the internodes get shorter. This may end up giving the appearance of a very bushy plant at the ends of each branch, with whorled leaves. The flowers are very inconspicuous, and are borne in the axils of the leaves. One-seeded fruits appear in the fall.

The plant can reproduce through seeds, as well as fragmentation. Because the plant is brittle, each piece that breaks off from disturbance can root and become a new plant.



CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION
Growth Season	annual
Growth Habit	submersed
Leaflet Number	many
Leaf Margin	toothed, serrate
Leaf Hairs	none
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	linear
Leaf Length	1 – 1½ inch long
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	fibrous
Flower Color	





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References:

Line drawings:

University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. Used with permission. Available online from <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/slidecol.html>

Text:

Aulback-Smith, C. A., and de Kozlowski, S. J. 1996. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.