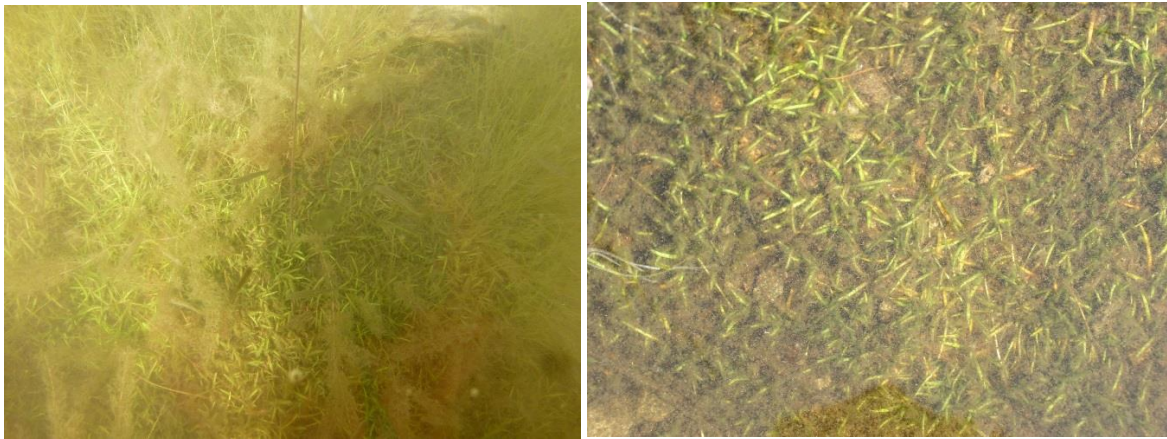


Plant Functional Groups

Here are some examples of the species that belong to the plant functional groups listed on the form. Not every species you may come across is included, so these pictures only illustrate the type of plants you may observe.

Rosette forming stiff leaved plants

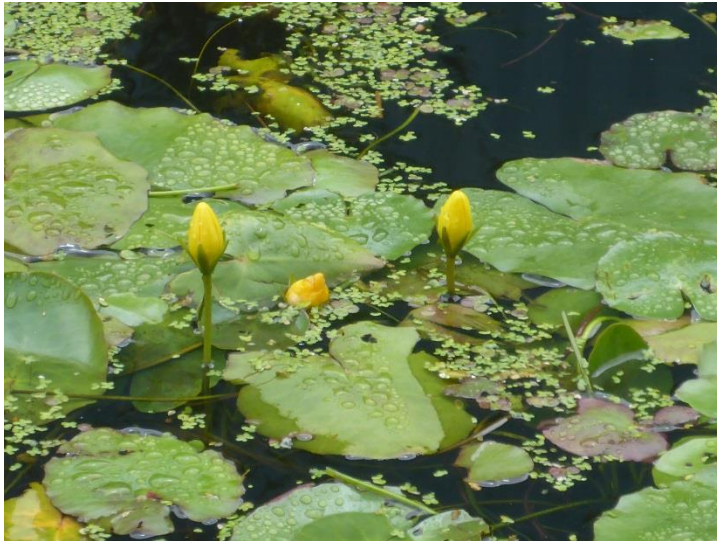


These plants can form dense swards on the lake bed, superficially looking a bit like a lawn, or grow singly.



If washed up on the shore or uprooted with a grapnel their form can be seen more clearly

Floating leaved rooted



Typical floating-leaved plants are the water lilies although other floating leaved plants may be observed. The picture of the water lilies also includes some duckweed which is free floating (see below).

Free floating-leaved plants



The most common free-floating plants are the duckweeds, they can grow in such number that the whole water body looks green, as if there is an algal bloom, but on closer inspection you can always see a root on the underside of every plant. These roots dangle in the water and are not rooted in the sediment.

Submerged linear leaves



Many linear leaved submerged plants look superficially similar to grass

Submerged broad leaves



Submerged broad-leaved plants may have much shorter leaves than the ones in this picture, which is a relatively long-leaved species. As a guide leaves should be no more than five times as long as broad.

Submerged dissected leaves



This functional group can include flowering plants and the plant-like algae the stoneworts.

Emergent broad leaves



Most emergent broad-leaved plants are relatively short in stature, compared to reeds, but they still hold their leaves above the water.

Emergent narrow leaves



These may be grasses, sedges or rushes. In lakes with rocky shorelines there may be a few fine rushes like above, but in lakes where the shorelines are siltier expansive reedbeds may be seen.



Filamentous algae

These are algae that grow as long threads that can interweave to form a mat that resembles wet wool. It can grow attached to substrates or free floating.

