

Cape Pondweed

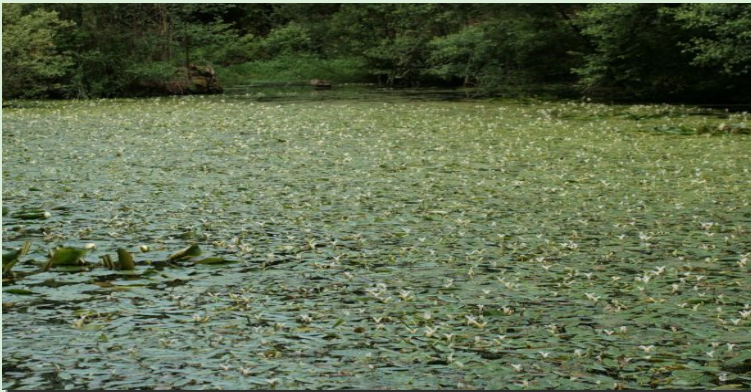
(*Aponogeton distachyos*)



Habitat: Aquatic, Slow moving / Still freshwater

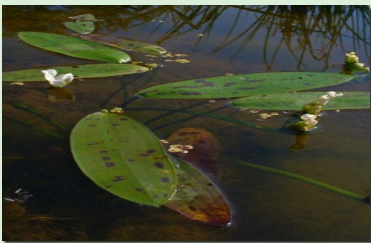
Family name: Aponogetonaceae

Common name: Water-hawthorn



Description:

Cape Pondweed is an aquatic plant growing from tuberous rhizomes. Mottled leaves float on the water surface from a petiole up to 1 m long from the rhizome; the leaf blade is narrow oval, 6–25 cm long and 1.5–7.7 cm broad, with an entire margin and parallel veins.



The flowers are produced on an erect spike with two branches at the apex like a 'Y', held above the water surface; they are sweetly scented, with one or two white petal-like perianth segments 1–2 cm long, and six or more dark purple-brown stamens



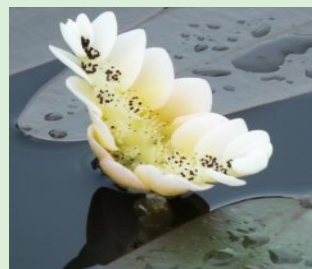
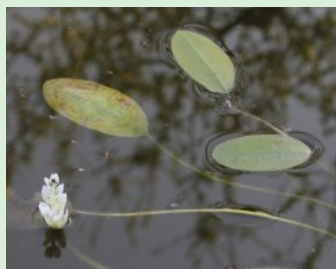
Native to South Africa's Western Cape but introduced elsewhere in quiet ponds in warm temperate to

subtropical climates in winter rainfall areas. It grows in ponds and vleis which dry up in summer, becoming dormant in the dry summer and growing again when the pools fill with autumn rain.

Cape pondweed is a tuberous perennial which grows as an emergent aquatic in water up to 2 m deep.



It may persist for many years in lakes and ponds as a relic of cultivation, or at sites where it is introduced into the wild.



Reproduction:

Cape pondweed has been known to reproduce by seed in Ireland.

However, the main mode of distribution remains human intervention.

