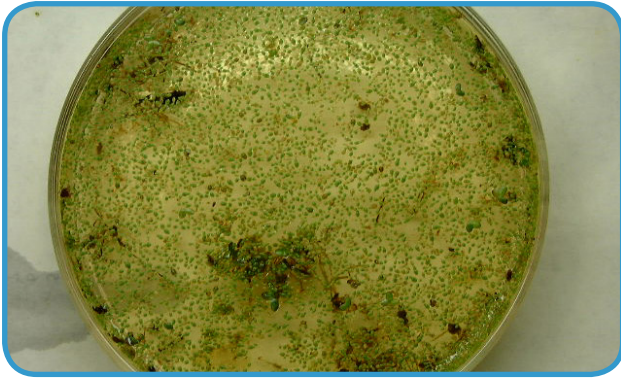


## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE:

## Duckweed

# fact sheet



*Wolffia*



*Wolffia* beaker



Duckweed on a pond

### Types:

Duckweed is a member of the *Lemnaceae* family. Types of duckweed include *Landoltia*, *Lemna*, *Spirodela*, *Wolffia*, and *Wolffiella*.

### Description:

Duckweed is a collective term that refers to a number of small aquatic plants. *Lemna* has small roots and multiple leaves. *Wolffia*, also called watermeal, is smaller with only one leaf and no roots.

### Habitat:

Duckweed can be found in quiet or slow moving freshwater throughout North Carolina. They are more prevalent in warmer months and die back when temperatures cool. Growths of duckweed are easily moved about by wind or wave action and often collect in coves and along shorelines.

### Significance:

Duckweed is often considered to be an indicator of nutrient enrichment (especially nitrate). Duckweed growths may be considered unsightly but pose no known human or environmental health risk.