

4 Steps to determine if your plant sample is **Swollen Bladderwort***

Step 1

Is it a bladderwort?

Does it have bladders? Is it free-floating, not rooted?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, continue with the items below.

Step 2

Branched leaves arranged in whorls along main stem



Large Purple Bladderwort

Branched leaves not arranged in whorls along main stem

Bladders generally arranged in a row along middle of leaves



Common Bladderwort

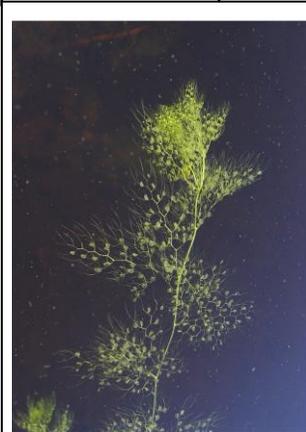
Step 3

Bladders generally scattered on leaves' filaments



Step 4

Plant is delicate; "lacy"



Floating Bladderwort

Plant is robust; densely branched; "bushy"



Suspect Swollen Bladderwort

Green = native species

Red = non-native, invasive

* If you suspect your sample is

Swollen Bladderwort,

submit photo(s) & live sample to:

In Maine: Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM)

stewards@lakestewardsme.org; (207) 783-7733

In NH: NH DES, Exotic Species Program

amy.smagula@des.nh.gov; (603) 271-2248

A presumptive identification of

Swollen Bladderwort in Maine

needs to be confirmed by LSM or Maine DEP.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO AUGMENT THE FLOW CHART ON THE OTHER SIDE:

The chart on the other side is for use with mature, non-flowering bladderwort specimens in Maine.

It presents 4 steps to presumptively identify 4 species of bladderworts when no flowers or associated flowering structures are present.

It includes the 3 larger and most commonly observed native bladderwort species in Maine, plus **invasive Swollen Bladderwort***.

* **Swollen Bladderwort** (also known as Inflated Bladderwort) **Scientific name:** *Utricularia inflata*

As of 2023, **Swollen Bladderwort** is considered to be an invasive aquatic plant in Maine.

As of 2023 it was not considered to be invasive in NH. It is native to southeastern U.S.

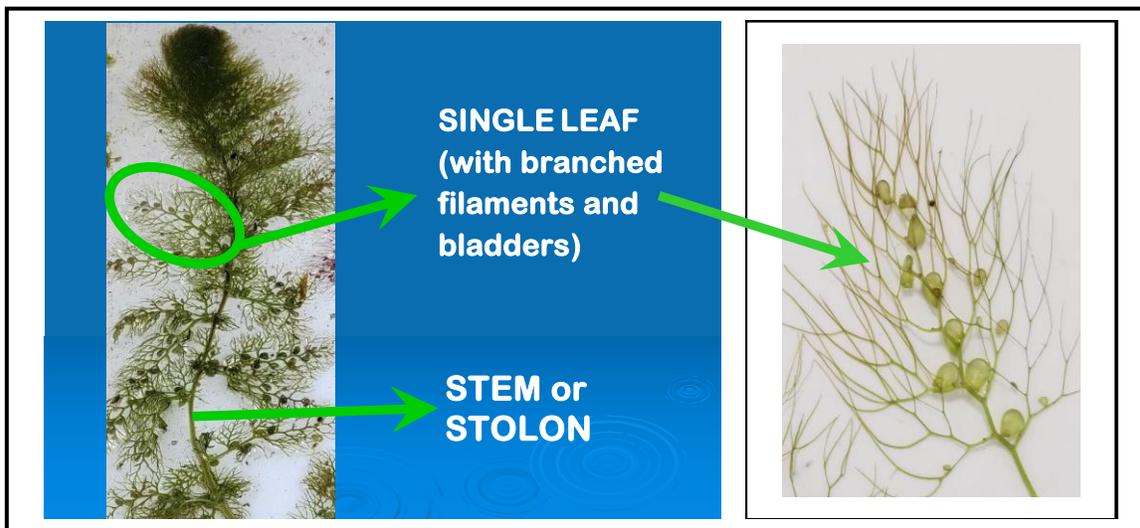
Currently, there are 10 bladderwort species known to occur in Maine.

This sheet presents the 4 largest, most similar looking bladderwort species present in Maine and the northeastern U.S. The flow chart can be used to presumptively identify **Swollen Bladderwort**.

Presumptive identification in ME should be confirmed by ME DEP or Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM).

Photos of bladderwort sample showing stem with leaves, a single leaf and bladder structures:

(The images shown here are of Common Bladderwort, *Utricularia vulgaris*.)



Online resources for bladderwort (genus *Utricularia*) or invasive aquatic plants identification:

LSM's 2023 video,
"Know your bladderworts"
<https://vimeo.com/855540655>



LSM's 2024 Quick Key –
[2024 Quick Key link](#)



Native Plant Trust, bladderwort key -
<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/dkey/utricularia/>



**Print resources for bladderwort (genus *Utricularia*) or aquatic plants identification:
Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Northeastern North America, G.E. Crow & C.B. Hellquist, 2nd Ed., 2023**

Flow chart developed by Laurie Callahan, Aquatic Biologist (M.S.) and founder & coordinator of York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP), with the assistance of colleagues. For more information about the flow chart contact Laurie Callahan at yciasp@hotmail.com.

Photo credits: L.Callahan; except Large Purple Bladderwort, pg. 1 D.Roberge; Floating Bladderwort, pg. 1 D. Cameron