

Major Aquatic Vegetation Groups

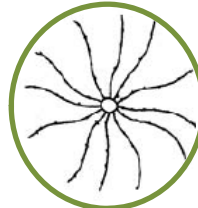
Filamentous Surface Algae

Algae growing in long chains, threads, or filaments growing on or near the water surface (not attached to rocks or other structures).

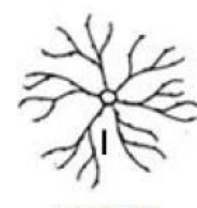


Chara/Muskgrass

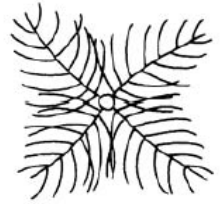
Multicellular algae that is easy to confuse with submerged aquatic vegetation. Chara often has a musky odor and gritty texture due to mineral deposits and has a distinct leaf cross section compared to SAV species that may be encountered in Utah (see cross sections below).



Chara



Coontail



Water milfoil



Floating

Aquatic plants that are not attached to the bottom. Duckweed is the most commonly encountered example of this; bladderwort and mosquitofern can also be encountered in Utah.



Small duckweed
Lemna valdiviana
Photo by Vic Ramey
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Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

Rooted plants with most of their leaves and stems below water, though some parts may stick up. Plants have flaccid stems.



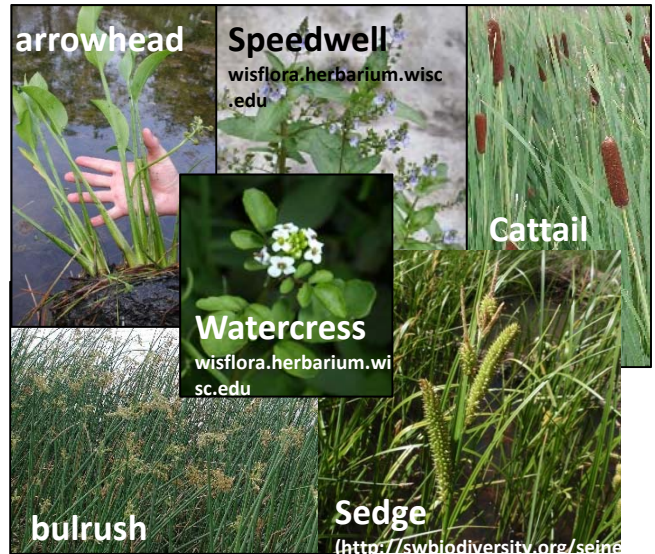
Water starwort

Pondweed

Water buttercup

Emergents

Rooted herbaceous plants often found on shorelines that stand above the surface of the water and have somewhat stiff or firm stems.



arrowhead

Speedwell

wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu

Cattail

Watercress

wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu

bulrush

Sedge

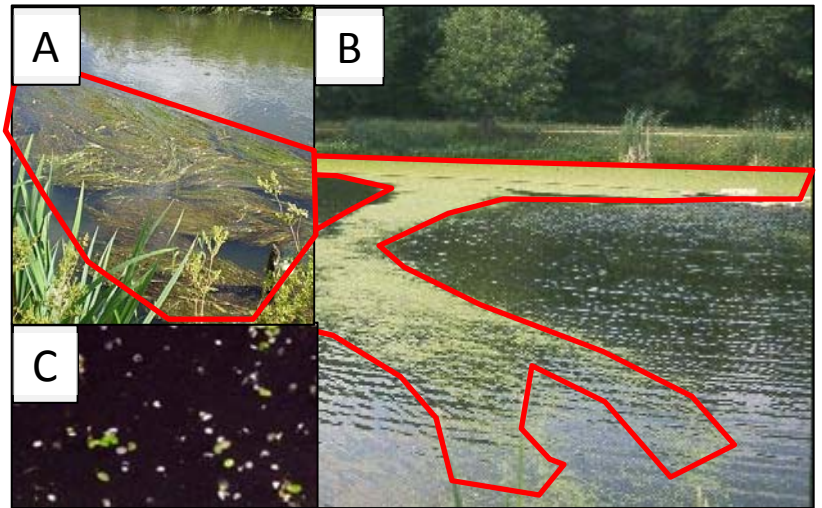
(http://swbiodiversity.org/seine)

Photos from luirig.altervista.org, www.biopix.com, and gobotany.newenglandwild.org

Photos taken from Texas A&M AgrilifeExtension AquaPlant plant identification database (<http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification>) except where otherwise noted. Cross sections of submerged plants and algae taken from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Resources Division, 2012, Common aquatic Plants of Michigan: EQC 2761, 10 p., available online at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-anc-CommonPlant_408518_7.pdf.

Percent Cover Diagrams for Vegetation Metric

For dense vegetation, such as the pondweed in **A** and the duckweed in **B**, you can generalize to assume entire area inside red polygon in vegetated. For very sparse vegetation, such as in **C**, you may want to use the cover class diagram below to help with estimates. It is often useful to visually divide waterbody into quarters or other segments to obtain a cover estimate.



Cover Class Diagram for sparse vegetation as in C:



Larval Amphibian Identification

Only three amphibian species are typically found above 7,000 feet in the Wasatch:

Larval tiger salamander: external, feather like gills.

