

## Nymphaeaceae

### Water-lily Family

All are aquatic herbs with large floating leaves arising directly from the rhizome. Petioles attach at the top of a deep sinus. Buoyancy is provided by numerous cavities on the petioles as well as the long peduncles. Flowers are perfect and regular, 4–6 sepals subtending many petals. Fruit is a follicle or berry. Many ornamentals are found in the family. Birds and mammals feed upon the seeds and rhizomes.

#### Key to genera

Flowers yellow; leaves longer than wide; pinnately veined. *Nuphar*

Flowers white or pink; leaves round; leaves palmately veined. *Nymphaea*

### ***Nuphar* Sm.**

#### **pond-lilies**

Fifteen species comprise the pond-lilies, mostly north-temperate in distribution. Sepals 5–6 (in our species) resemble the much smaller and more numerous petals. Our single specie has three subspecies.

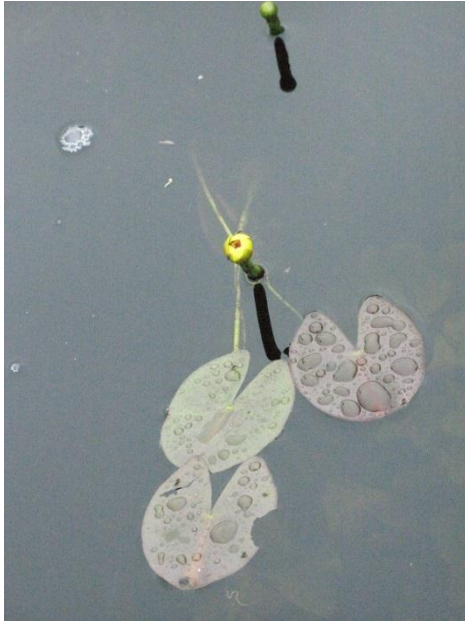
#### Key to the subspecies of *Nuphar lutea*

A. Sinus less than half the length of the midvein; anthers longer than the filaments; disk green or yellow. *ssp. variegata*

aa. Sinus half the length of the midvein or more; anthers shorter than the filaments; disk red. B

B. Sinus 2/3 or more the length of midvein; fruit without persistent stamens; petals also deciduous. *ssp. pumila*

bb. Sinus about the length of the midvein; decaying petals and stamens persistent. *ssp. rubrodisca*

***Nuphar lutea* ssp. *pumila* (Timm) EO Beal****Small Pond-lily; petit nénuphar jaune***Photo by Sean Blaney*

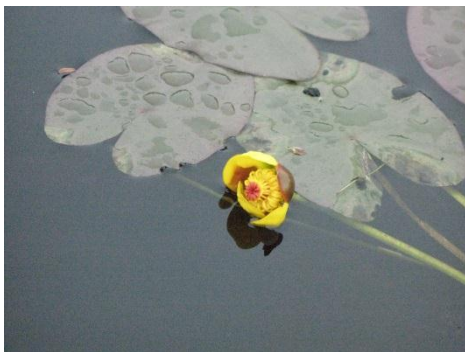
Smallest of the three subspecies, the flowers are no more than 2cm across. The leaves arise on lightly pubescent petioles; their sinuses extend about 2/3 the length of the midvein. Petioles are flattened on the upper surface.

Flowers in August.

Ponds and gently flowing streams; lakeshores and gypsum sinks.

Throughout the province but most common from Kings and Cumberland counties to Antigonish. Only a few Atlantic collections.

NS to MB, south to IL and NJ.

***Nuphar lutea* ssp. *rubrodisca* (Morong) Hellquist & Wiersema****Yellow Pond-lily; nénuphar à disque rouge***Photo by Sean Blaney*

Intermediate to the other subspecies, its leaves measure 7–20cm in length. The sinus is only about half the length of midrib. Yellow flowers are larger than those of *ssp. pumila*, exceeding 3cm across.

Flowers July to September.

Lakeshores and slow-moving streams. From Yarmouth to Pictou counties, infrequent on the Atlantic coast side.

NS to ON, south to MN and NJ.

*Photo by David Mazerolle*

***Nuphar lutea* ssp. *variegata* (Durand) EO Beal**

**Cow-lily; grand nénuphar jaune**



*Photo by Sean Blaney*

A robust subspecies, cow-lily is the largest form. Leaves may reach 26cm in length, on petioles 1cm in dia. Sinus is shallow, relative to leaf length. Flowers 4–5cm wide.

Flowers from July to August.

Characteristic of bog pools, Stillwater lakes and quiet streams. Appears emergent in mucky ephemeral pools. Rhizomes are valuable food source for muskrat and beaver of this and the following species.

Common throughout and on Sable Island.

NL to AK south to ID, KS, and NJ.

***Nymphaea* L.**

**Water-lily**

Of 30 species found worldwide, only one is native to NS although several may be expected due to the popularity of water gardening. Leaves are floating on long petioles, each with four air cavities, increasing their buoyancy. Four green sepals surround the many petals, ranging from pink to white.

***Nymphaea odorata* Aiton**

**Water-lily; nymphéa odorant**



*Photo by Sean Blaney*

Leaves are nearly round and palmately veined. Sinus forms at sharp angles to the leaf base. Flowers white or pink, measure nearly 12cm across, of elliptic or oblong petals.

From June to September.

Limited to quiet streams, lakes and shallow muddy ponds.

Common throughout, although less frequent northward.



NF to AK, south to FL and CA.