

pickerelweed *Pontederia cordata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Liliopsida

Order: Liliales

Family: Pontederiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: common, native

FEATURES

Pickerelweed leaves are dark green, shaped somewhat like an arrowhead and, if growing in water, emerge from the water. Flowers are produced from May through September. The flowers are dark blue to purple and clustered in a spike at the tip of a stalk. This plant may grow from one to four feet tall.

BEHAVIORS

Pickerelweed grows in muddy, wet areas and shallow water throughout the state except the east central counties. Flowers are produced from May through September. Muskrats and waterfowl eat the seeds.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

marshes; swamps; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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