



bladderwort

Utricularia vulgaris

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The bladderwort is a free-floating plant with finely-divided, alternate leaves. It has small bladder-like structures on its leaves. The stems float horizontally beneath the water's surface and may extend for three feet or more. This plant does not have roots. The yellow flowers extend above the water's surface.

BEHAVIORS

The bladderwort is found in quiet waters. This plant flowers from July through August. The bladders on the leaves help the plant to float and are also used to capture small aquatic organisms. This plant lives where nutrients may be scarce. It supplements photosynthesis by digesting and absorbing small organisms. The bladder expands when a prey item touches its trigger hairs, drawing the prey in where it may be digested by enzymes and absorbed.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

northern 1/2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.