

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Najas guadalupensis subsp. *guadalupensis* – COMMON WATER-NYMPH
[Hydrocharitaceae/Najadaceae]

Najas guadalupensis (Spreng.) Magnus subsp. *guadalupensis*, COMMON WATER-NYMPH. Annual, submersed aquatic, clonal via fragmentation forming dense mats and colonies, fibrous-rooted (lower nodes), much-branched throughout, repeatedly forked and typically with unequal, diverging branches having 1 flower in axil of the narrower axis; monoecious; shoots glabrous, lacking stomates. **Stems:** cylindric and slender, 0.5–1 mm diameter, internodes to 40 mm long. **Leaves:** subopposite (visually opposite), 1 = cauline leaf (upper leaf) subtending main shoot + 1 = bract subtending flower or a leaf of a future lateral shoot (lower leaf), simple with sheath, sessile, without stipules; sheaths at node slightly dimorphic, open, roundish, of cauline leaf fully sheathing and ca. 3 mm long, of bract partially sheathing and ca. 2 mm long, minutely serrate (= 1-celled teeth) on margins, the teeth aging brownish, rounded to oblique (not lobed or auriculate) at shoulders beneath blade and with several larger teeth along edge; blade narrowly linear, 10–20(–25) × (0.5–)1–1.5(–2) mm, the widest at base, flat, minutely toothed on margins, acute typically with 1 or more minute teeth at tip, 1-veined. **Inflorescences:** solitary unisexual flowers, axillary, bracteate, glabrous; bract paired with cauline leaf, leaflike (described above); bractlet (staminate flower) spathe-like and sheathing, ca. 3 × 0.8 mm, membranous and pale green; pedicel (staminate flower) 0.2–0.3 mm long (forming at anthesis). **Staminate flower:** perianth absent; stamens 1, free, sessile; anther dithecal, broadly ellipsoid, ca. 2.5 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; pistil absent. **Pistillate flower:** perianth absent; stamens absent; pistil 1; ovary superior, narrowly fusiform, 2.5–2.8 × 0.6 mm, 1-chambered with 1 basal ovule; stigmas 2(–3), lanceolate, usually with 2 sterile, spiny processes, the spines > stigmas, transparent except for reddish at tip. **Fruit:** utricle-like achene, indehiscent, 1-seeded, ± narrowly fusiform or ellipsoid, 2.5–3 mm long, colorless to purplish red and thin-walled, free from seed. **Seed:** same shape as fruit, ± 2 × 0.6–0.7 mm, dull tannish, pitted with longitudinal rows of collapsed cells.
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