

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:** cylindrical 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. Mid-August–late October.

Native. Submersed aquatic herb producing a very dense population in shallow water during hot, sunny summer months in the pond at SMMNRA Rocky Oaks, and less common elsewhere (e.g., Lake Sherwood). *Najas guadalupensis* has paired leaves with minute teeth on the margins and at the tip of the flat blade, but at each node the leaves are not exactly opposite and the lower one actually also functions as a green bract to the axillary flower. Commonly, each node on a shoot has a flower, and percentage fruit set is high.

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