

Ribbon Weed (*Vallisneria australis*)

New Non-native Invasive Aquatic Plant in the Delta

Delta Sightings: Rio Vista Delta Marina Yacht Harbor, Long Island, Hogback Island Boat Launch, Liberty Island, Mokelumne River near Lighthouse Marina, Sherman Lake

Origin: Australia

Habitat: Grows below water surface in still or flowing fresh water up to 23 feet deep.

Growth Form: Long strap-shaped leaves grow in clusters originating from sediment surface. Spreads by underground runners. Often forms tall underwater meadows.

Foliage: Leaves generally 0.5-1.5 inches wide and up to 10 feet long. Leaf tips are rounded. Raised veins with some cross veins.

Flowers: Female flowers are white and small (< 0.25 inch). Grow singly atop long naked stalks and mature at water surface. After pollination, flower stalks coil back under water, creating spirals.

Fruits: String bean shaped capsules (up to 6 inches long) containing numerous tiny seeds.

Report Sightings: Take photos and note location, preferably with GPS coordinates. Avoid disturbing patches of plants to reduce risk of spread. Contact Trish Gilbert at CA Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways (Patricia.Gilbert@parks.ca.gov).



Plants connected by runners



Left: Flat leaves with raised veins
Right: Rounded leaf tip



Ribbon Weed meadow



Female flowers and coiled flower stalks