

Eel-grass (*Vallisneria spiralis*)



Habitat: Aquatic, Freshwater Bodies
Family name: Hydrocharitaceae
Common names: straight vallisneria, tape grass, or eel grass



Eel-grass or (*tape grass*), is a species of eel-grass can be found in tropical and sub-tropical regions worldwide.

It is found in the intertidal zone and the shallow sub-tidal, and grows on sandy, muddy and silty substrates.

Description: Eel-grass is an effective invader due to its efficient dispersal, vegetative reproduction, high biomass production, and popularity in the aquarium trade.



Eel-grass, *Vallisneria spiralis*

Reproduction:

Eel-grass is monoecious with male flowers carried on long spiral stalks that break away from the plant and float on the water's surface.

In the variety *V.s. gigantea* the female flowers are on stalks (pedicels) up to 1.85 in length.

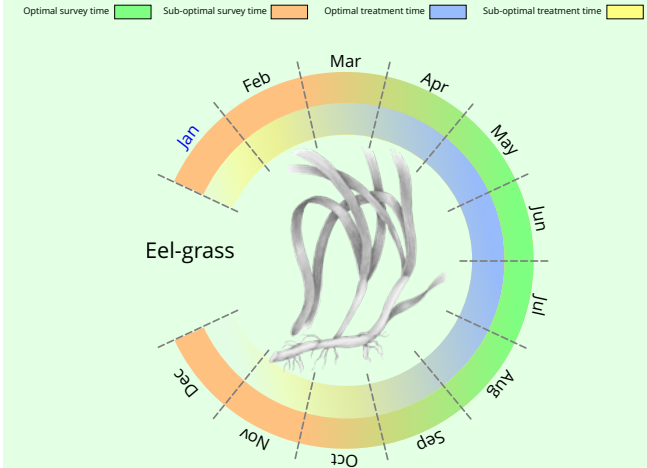
After the female flowers have been pollinated, the pedicel curls up like a tendril, drawing the young fruit closer to the bed of the stream or pond.

Seeds have not been observed germinating in aquaria. Instead, it most often propagates by runners which can lead to dense stands.



Eel-grass has narrow, linear leaves that range in colour from a pale-green to reddish up to 1m long and up to 1.5cm broad.

Eel grass *Vallisneria spiralis* (commonly known as tape grass or eel grass), the following herbicide treatment timetable can be used to manage its growth in freshwater bodies.



Eel-grass or Tape-grass is not to be confused with Dwarf Eel-grass (*Zostera noltei*), also known as *Zostera*, which is a native species in Ireland and plays a crucial role in coastal ecosystems.

Dwarf Eel-grass provides habitat and food for various marine organisms, stabilizes sediment, and sequesters carbon.

Therefore, herbicide treatment for this species is generally not recommended or necessary.