



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

*Hottonia inflata* Ell.

**Featherfoil**

- Habitat:** Pools and ditches. [Open water (non-forested, wetland); Forested wetland]
- Range:** Florida to Texas, north to New England and west to Missouri. Rare in New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.
- Phenology:** Flowers in June.
- Family:** Primulaceae

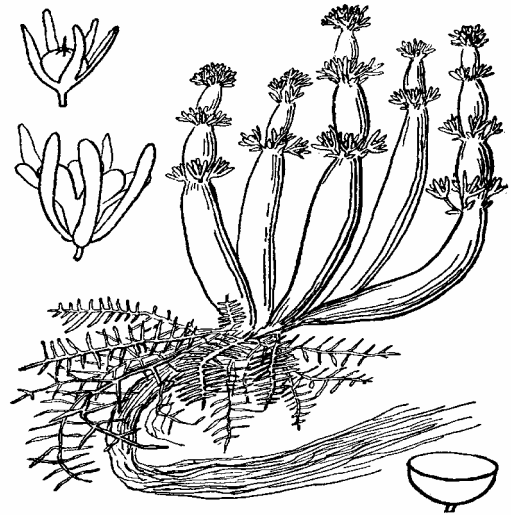


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

**Aids to Identification:** Featherfoil is a short-lived aquatic herb with an entirely submerged, spongy, densely leafy, hollow stem. The successive segments of the stem become progressively shorter bearing a terminal umbel of racemes. The white flowers are small (5-8 cm) in whorled verticils of 2-10 at the joints. The leaves are sessile, or nearly so, oblong (2-6 cm) and divided into narrowly, linear entire segments.

**Ecological characteristics:** Known populations occur in vernal pools in southern Maine. The species is believed to be a winter annual, with seeds germinating in the fall and resuming growth in the spring.

**Synonyms:**

**Rarity of *Hottonia inflata***

- |                          |      |   |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| <b>State Rank:</b>       | S1   | Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.    |
| <b>New England Rank:</b> | None |   |
| <b>Global Rank:</b>      | G4   | Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure globally, but with cause for long-term concern. |

**Status of *Hottonia inflata***

- |                               |            |   |
|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| <b>Federal Status:</b>        | None       | No Federal Status.  |
| <b>State Status:</b>          | Threatened |   |
| <b>Proposed State Status:</b> | Threatened | Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened. Listing criteria met: Special habitat, At edge of range, Vulnerable to human activity |



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
- Recent (1982 - present)

### Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 3 town(s) in the following county(ies): Washington, York.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1900, 1914, 1994 (2), 1996 (3), 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002

### Reason(s) for rarity:

Local throughout much of its range, and here at its northern limit.

### Conservation considerations:

This plant is restricted statewide to southern Maine, and populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use.

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The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 13 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species, please contact the Natural Areas Program  
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

