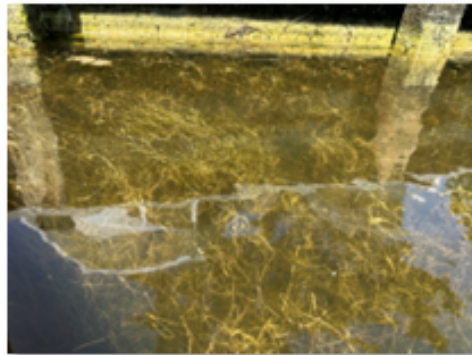




Understanding Widgeon Grass: A Key Player in Nature

Widgeon grass is a **submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)** found in the South Bethany Canals, and it is crucial for ecosystem health and water quality improvement.
Consider its benefits before removing the plant.

Macroalgae vs. Widgeon Grass



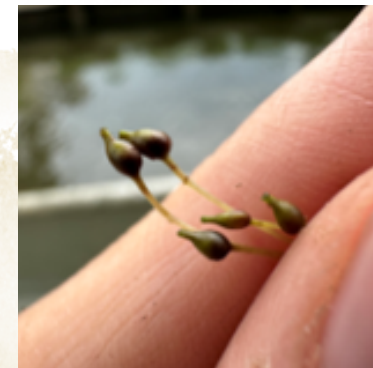
Macroalgae (left) forms mats at the surface and are a result of excess nutrients entering the waterways. Widgeon Grass (right) filters out the excess nutrients, limiting macroalgae growth.

You Can Help!

- **Spread Awareness:** Educate others about widgeon grass's importance in our ecosystem.
- **Avoid Disturbance:** Minimize activities that may harm widgeon grass beds and do not remove the plant by the roots.
- **Support Restoration:** Volunteer to help scientists' efforts to monitor and understand the species for better management.

What is Widgeon Grass?

- Unlike nuisance macroalgae, widgeon grass is a vascular plant with roots, stems, and leaves.
- It improves water quality by stabilizing sediments, absorbing excess nutrients, and providing habitat for aquatic life.



Scientists are monitoring the Widgeon Grass beds in the canals, they will collect the long flowering shoots when seeds are mature enough to use for restoration.

To learn more about underwater grasses and SAV work in Delaware, visit DelawareSAV.org.

Contact dessav.workgroup@gmail.com for more information.

