Bibliography of Iowa Aquatic and Wetland Plant Literature

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The literature on Iowa's aquatic and wetland plants is quite extensive but is located in many diverse journals, serials, books, and unpublished reports and theses. Two recent reports summarized three important aspects of this literature. Lammers and van der Valk (1977, 1979) summarized the available data on the distribution of aquatic and wetland plant species in the state. Bishop (1981) summarized the decline of wetland acreage since settlement and the value of the remaining aquatic and wetland habitats as a part of Iowa's natural heritage. This bibliography is a companion summary to provide a reference resource for botanists, wildlife biologists, and limnologists.

The bibliography includes 350 references prepared by 210 authors. References were included if they treated plant groups traditionally referred to as "macrophytes," which includes flowering plants, conifers, ferns, fern allies, mosses, liverworts, and large green algae known as charophytes. All other algae were excluded. County floras generally were not included if published before 1975. Such works were well summarized by Eilers (1975) and were included in the floristic study by Lammers and van der Valk (1977, 1979). In most cases, it was relatively easy to decide whether a particular report was appropriate for inclusion. Judgement was necessary for three kinds of references: limnological, wildlife biology, and prairie pothole studies. Reports of these kinds were included if they contained 1 or 4 kinds of information: first, if some macrophyte data were reported which were not adequately treated in standard botanical reports; second, if historical information on previous management practices or responses of aquatic plants to management was presented; third, if observations were presented on the value of plants to wildlife (cover, food, nesting) or the impact of wildlife on plants (herbivory, seed predation, seed dispersal, seed germination); and fourth, if the report documented the magnitude of the influence plants had on the limnological character of the habitat. The bibliography included some references with titles which required clarification; such references were briefly annotated.

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