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30. © Optimum storage and germination conditions for seeds of pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata* L.) from Florida. Gettys, L. A. and Dumroese, R. K. Native Plants Journal 10(1):4-12. 2009.

OPTIMUM STORAGE AND GERMINATION CONDITIONS FOR SEEDS OF

Pickerelweed

(*Pontederia cordata* L.)

FROM FLORIDA

| Lyn A Gettys and R Kasten Dumroese

ABSTRACT

Clean seeds of pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata* L. [Pontederiaceae]) germinated best (84 to 94%) under water, even after being stored dry up to 6 mo at about 25 °C (77 °F), but germination of clean seeds under water was reduced to 43% when seeds were stored at 4 °C (39 °F) for 6 mo. Underwater germination of seeds enclosed in fruits was less effective; germination of fresh fruits or fruits stored for 3 mo ranged from 70 to 90% and was reduced to 38 to 42% when seeds were stored for 6 mo. The least effective method was burial, which significantly reduced germination in seeds or fruits stored for 3 or 6 mo. Understanding seed cleaning and germination requirements will make it even easier to propagate this attractive native perennial freshwater shoreline species.

Gettys LA, Dumroese RK. 2009. Optimum storage and germination conditions for seeds of pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata* L.) from Florida. Native Plants Journal 10(1):4–12.

KEY WORDS

Pontederiaceae, aquatic, wetland, ornamental, mitigation

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2008)

Figure 1. Pickerelweed growing along the margin of Robert's Pond in Bainbridge, New York. Inset: Flowers of pickerelweed. Photos by Lyn A Gettys