

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*) shrub wetland

Water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*) has the ability to extend itself laterally over open water and thus forms a fringe along the aquatic edge of lakeside, creekside, or bog-lake-side wetlands. The associated species vary widely; some common examples are *Nuphar lutea* (spatterdock), *Peltandra virginica* (arrow-arum), *Pontederia cordata* (pickerel-weed), *Utricularia* spp. (bladderworts), and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush). This community type may occur as part of the "Acidic glacial peatland complex."

Related types: *Decodon verticillatus* (water-willow) may occur in a variety of other palustrine types. This type is intended to describe areas of clear dominance by *Decodon verticillatus* (water-willow).

Range: Glaciated NE, Glaciated NW, Great Lakes Region, Pocono Plateau, Ridge and Valley.

Selected references: Crum 1988, Johnson 1985, Sneddon, Anderson, and Metzler 1996.

[Crosswalk: TNC's *Decodon verticillatus* Shrubland Alliance.]