

# PLANT NOTES

## A NEW PONDWEED FOR SASKATCHEWAN

by Bob Caldwell, Ducks Unlimited, Saskatoon



Robbin's Pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii*)

### *Potamogeton robbinsii*

While on a trip to Nemeiben (Sucker) Lake, northwest of Lac la Ronge, in early June, the writer collected a sample of Robbin's Pondweed, *Potamogeton robbinsii* Oakes. Its identification was later verified by Dr. G. F. Ledingham of Regina College.

This pondweed has not previously been reported for Saskatchewan, but has been found in the northeastern states, Great Lakes region and Pacific northwest below our border.

This pondweed is a completely submerged plant. It is best recognized by its stiff, dark green, two-ranked, linear to lanceolate-shaped leaves that flank the stem, becoming crowded toward the end of the branch. These leaves are up to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch wide. The edges are finely serrate. Apparently it seldom produces fruit (seeds) and it is therefore of little value to waterfowl. In our northern lakes it might have some value to fish populations.

## PROTECT OUR NATIVE FLORA

by C. Stuart Francis, Torch River

The wild "Tiger Lily" (*Lilium philadelphicum* L. var. *andinum* (Nutt.) Ker.) has been very abundant in the Torch River district in 1960. In fact, all our native wild flowers here and elsewhere in the province seem to be having a very prolific season, with the native Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia* L.) being especially abundant with us this year. I would like to request all farm folk not to clear and break up every last few square rods of native sod, for if this trend continues most of our lovely wild flowers will be gone forever. To me, and I am sure to many other nature lovers, too, our wild flowers are just as beautiful as the tame garden varieties, and they can be seen and admired with a lot less hard work and expense. Our wild flowers are usually much more resistant to insects and other pests that attack our garden flowers.

