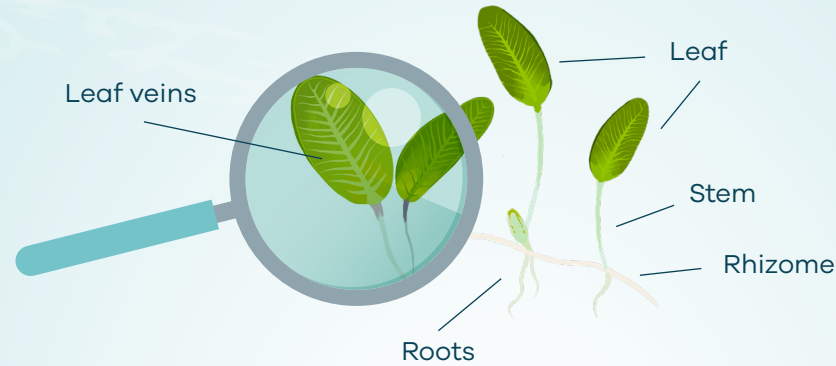


IDENTIFYING SEAGRASS IN THE MALDIVES

All seagrasses have key features which can help us to identify them to species level:



Eight species of seagrass have been recorded in the Maldives.



1

***S. isoetifolium* (Si):**

Narrow, cylindrical leaves.



2

***H. ovalis* (Ho):**

Fat, oval leaves with 8 or more cross veins and no hairs on leaf surface.



3

***T. ciliatum* (Tc):**

Long stem bearing curved leaf clusters. Leaves have round, serrated leaf tips.



4

***T. hemprichii* (Th):**

Curved leaves with black marks. Rhizomes have scars between shoots.



5

***C. rotundata* (Cr):**

Long leaves with rounded smooth tips. Rhizomes without any markings.



6

***O. serrulata* (Os):**

Strap like leaves with serrated leaf tip and tiger-like markings on some leaves.



7

***H. pinofolia* (Hp):**

Fine, delicate leaves with a rounded tip and a central vein.



8

***H. uninervis* (Hu):**

Similar to *H. pinofolia*, but larger with a trident tip.