

Invasive Species Alert

Parrot Feather

(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Spikes of stiff, feathery leaves grow in whorls of 4-6
- Bright green upper stem emerges up to 1 foot above water
- Small, inconspicuous white flowers where leaves attach to the section of stem above water
- Stems and submerged leaves may be tinted reddish
- All U.S. plants are female, spread via fragmentation

Habitat: Occurs in slow-moving fresh water habitats such as tributaries, canals, ponds, and lakes. It shows preference for high nutrient environments with plenty of light.

Native Range: South America

U.S. Distribution: Parrot feather can be found in at least 26 states, including those along the Eastern, Southern, and Western coasts.



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Local Concern: This invasive milfoil plant threatens native aquatic species through competition. It will often form dense mats which provides habitat for mosquito larvae and can impede boats.

To report this species, visit www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies for contact information. Report online at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone