

# Invasive Species Alert

## Starry Stonewort

(*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Whorls of 4-6 branchlets/leaves with blunt tips
- Star-shaped bulbils are produced at the nodes, generally 3-6 mm wide
- Can reach up to 33 inches

**Habitat:** This submerged annual macroalga invades lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and slow moving rivers. It will inhabit freshwater habitats ranging from 3 feet to 95 feet in depth.

**Native Range:** Europe and western Asia

**U.S. Distribution:** Michigan, northern Indiana, southeastern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the northeast United States



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski



Starry stonewort

Photo by Paul Skawinski



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**Local Concern:** Starry stonewort forms dense mats in lakes and can significantly reduce the diversity of other aquatic plants. Dense mats of vegetation can also impede movement of fish, spawning activity, water flow, and recreational activities.

**Native look-alikes and how you can tell them apart from starry stonewort:**

✓ **Chara:** Feels scaly and brittle, often smells like a skunk's spray

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