

Invasive Species Alert

Eurasian Watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

*Established in Michigan *

Identification:

- Emergent, herbaceous aquatic plant
- Stems are whitish-pink to reddish-brown
- Leaves are greyish-green with finely divided pairs of leaflets that are ½-2 inches long, gives the plant a feathery appearance
- Leaves arranged in whorls of 3-6
- Yellow or reddish flower with 4 parts on a projected spike sitting 2-4 inches above water
- Usually 3-10 feet tall with a maximum of 33 feet



Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Habitat: Eurasian watermilfoil inhabits water bodies ranging from fresh to brackish. Areas that have been disturbed are prime habitats for this species. Eurasian watermilfoil is very resistant and can overwinter in frozen lakes and ponds in the northern U.S. or survive over-heated bays in southern states.

Native Range: Europe, Asia, and North Africa

U.S. Distribution: Eurasian watermilfoil has been introduced to 45 states. Hawaii, Kansas, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada are the states without reports of introduction.

Local Concern: Eurasian watermilfoil forms large mats of floating vegetation that will shade-out native aquatic plants and impede recreational activities. This species is not a valuable food source of waterfowl and may interfere with fish predation. Thick vegetation like this can also clog residential or industrial water intakes.



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