

# Invasive Species Alert

## PARROT FEATHER (MYRIOPHYLLUM AQUATICUM) PROHIBITED 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 and spread via fragmentation.



**HABITAT:** Occurs in slow-moving freshwater 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.



**MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION:** Detected in isolated areas in Michigan.

**LOCAL CONCERN:** This invasive milfoil plant threatens native aquatic species through competition. It will often form dense mats which provide habitat for mosquito larvae and can impede boats.

**THIS SPECIES IS ON MICHIGAN'S INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH LIST:** Report this species at [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org (top) and Graves Lovell,

ADCNR, Bugwood.org. (bottom)