

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum spicatum



Description: Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed, perennial herb. Its long stringy stems branch near the water surface and thicken further down the plant. Stems are green, reddish-brown, or whitish pink. Leaves are soft and feathery, two inches long, and form in whorls of 3-5 around the stems. Each leaf has 9-21 leaflet pairs, typically uniform in diameter. Tiny flowers are produced above the water surface on an emerged flower spike. Flowers either have 4 petals or are without petals. Fruit is nut-like and 4-jointed.



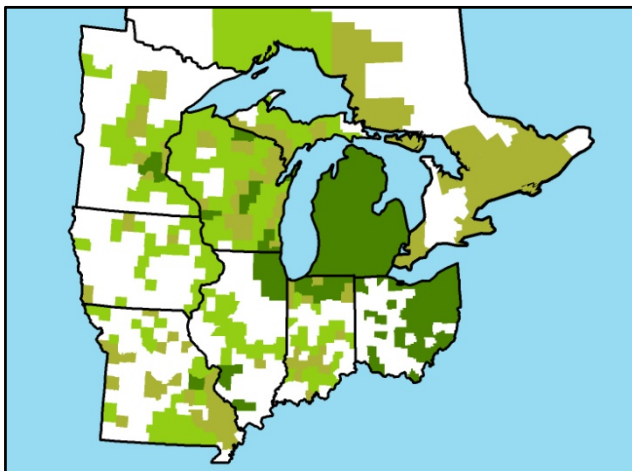
Ecological threat: Eurasian watermilfoil is capable of forming dense mats that displace native aquatic vegetation and provide a breeding ground for mosquitos. It is also capable of altering water chemistry, including oxygen levels, temperature, and pH. It invades non-tidal waters, seeming to prefer lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers. It tolerates a wide range of water conditions, though, including eutrophic, brackish, and highly alkaline. Roots are able to overwinter, giving this plant the ability to survive in colder climates.

Eurasian watermilfoil is **prohibited** in Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. It is **restricted** in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Native Range: Europe, Asia, North Africa

Current North American Range: Present throughout the United States, including widespread populations in the Midwest.

For up-to-date **management options**, see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/program.html>.



Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario

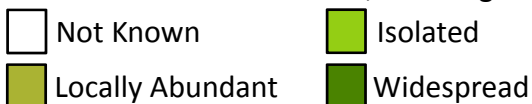


Photo credits: Inset – Robert L. Johnson, Cornell University, Bugwood.org; Left – Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plant, Bugwood.org; Right – Kim Bogenschutz

**Early detection and rapid response can help
stop the spread!**