



Eurasian Watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

History

- * Introduced to the United States in the 1940s

Characteristics

- * Rooted, submersed, perennial, aquatic plant
- * Narrow, whitish stems grow to the water surface, extending 3-10 ft (1-3 m) or longer
- * Forms dense beds
- * Feather-like leaves with blunt ends commonly with 12 to 24 pairs of leaflets on each leaf
- * Leaves are grouped in whorls of 3 - 6 leaves around stem
- * Small flowers project 2-4 in (5-10 cm) above the water surface

Habitat

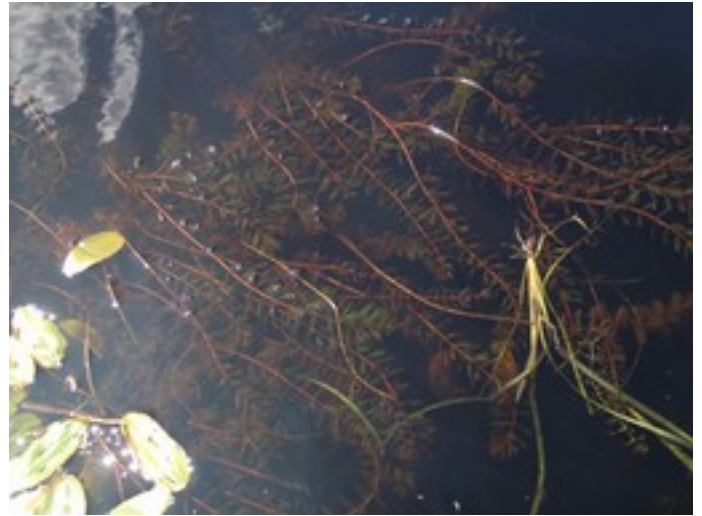
- * Lakes, ponds, slow-moving streams, reservoirs, and estuaries
- * Depths greater than 3 ft (0.9 m)
- * Tolerates brackish water
- * Thrives in highly disturbed lake beds, lakes receiving nitrogen and phosphorus-laden runoff, and heavily used lakes

Known Distribution

- * Quebec and most of the U.S.
- * Native to Europe and Asia

Impacts

- * Highly aggressive, nuisance species
- * Can form dense mats that shade and crowd out native plants
- * Degrades habitats used by fish for spawning and feeding
- * Thick growth can impair recreational uses of waterways including boating, swimming, and fishing
- * Yellow-green, matted vegetation on milfoil-dominated lakes creates perception that lake is "infested" or "dead"
- * Control efforts cost millions of dollars annually; \$500,000 per year in New York state alone



Eurasian watermilfoil

Credit: RIDEM K. DeGoosh



Eurasian watermilfoil underwater

Credit:



Eurasian watermilfoil leaves
Credit: MEDEP-K.Hahnel



Eurasian watermilfoil

Credit: RIDEM - K.DeGoosh



Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Credit: Alison Fox, University of Florida



Eurasian watermilfoil-leaves whorled around stem
Credit: MEDEP - K.Hahnel

