

Invasive Species Highlight

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a submerged aquatic plant that is native to Europe and Asia and was discovered in the eastern United States in the early 1900s. The first recorded observation in Minnesota was in Lake Minnetonka in 1987. It is now widely distributed throughout the state. This species and its hybrids are a prohibited invasive species, making it unlawful to possess, import, purchase, transport or introduce this species unless under permit.

Environmental Impact

Eurasian watermilfoil causes recreational, economic and ecological damage. This species forms dense mats on the water surface, overtakes habitat and outcompetes native species, and provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting for native animals. It can create new populations easily through fragmentation (a fragment breaks off, settles in the sediment, grows new roots, and establishes a new plant).



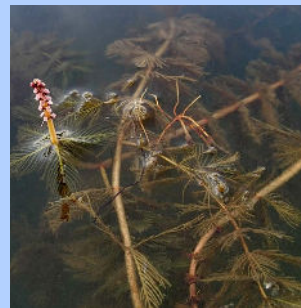
Identification

- Submerged plant that forms dense branching at the water surface and can grow up to 15' deep.
- Stems range in color from red/brown to green to white/pink.
- Leaves are soft, feather-like that are noticeably divided. Leaflets grow in pairs of 12-20 and are arranged in whorls of four around the stem. Leaves are limp when removed from water.
- Inconspicuous pink flowers that rise 2-4" above the water surface.
- Roots can be produced at each node along the stem.



Look-alikes

Northern watermilfoil - (native) - Only 5-9 leaflet pairs
Coontail - (native) - leaves are spiny and forked



Clean all invasive species from boats, trailers, and other equipment.
Drain water from boats, ballast tanks, motors, and live wells before leaving.
Dry boats and equipment to ensure young mussels are not transported.

Visit our website for additional Invasive Species Highlights - winonaswcd.org

For any questions, call Abbi Hoffman - 507-523-2171 x113

Invasive Species Highlight

Eurasian Watermilfoil

References and Resources

“Eurasian watermilfoil” Gupta, et al. *University of Minnesota*. <https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/eurasian-watermilfoil>

“Eurasian and Hybrid Watermilfoil” *Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)*. <https://maisrc.umn.edu/watermilfoil>

“Eurasian watermilfoil FAQ” *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/faq.html>

“Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)” *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html>

“*Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian Water-milfoil)” *Minnesota Wildflowers*. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/aquatic/eurasian-water-milfoil>



Visit our website for additional Invasive Species Highlights - winonaswcd.org

For any questions, call Abbi Hoffman - 507-523-2171 x113