

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Scientific Name: Myriophyllum Spicatum L.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is an "exotic" aquatic plant. Exotic means that it isn't native to Minnesota -- it is native to Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. Aquatic means that it lives in the water. Eurasian Water Milfoil was brought to North America in the 1940s.

EWM likes to live in lakes, ponds, shallow water reservoirs and slow moving rivers and streams. EWM grows and spreads really fast. So fast, that it can choke out native plants and reduce the amount of light that reaches into the lake. Milfoil is spread by fragments of the weed breaking off and moving to different parts of the lake. It also produces flowers and seeds that appear above the water, while the rest of the plant is under water. And it spreads by roots or runners (stolons) in the ground. It is also very tolerant of cold water, so it can grow fast in cold Minnesota lakes in early spring.

This aggressive growth kills off other native aquatic plants. And when the native plants can't grow, other aquatic species that rely on the native plants for food and shelter have trouble surviving. EWM's dense growth makes it difficult for invertebrates and other organisms that fish eat to survive. So, with less to eat and less open water, fish populations also decrease.

What can you do to help?

If you find EWM, drive through it or cut it,

Check and clean your boat if when going in and out of the water.

If you find EWM, please contact xxx

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What does Eurasian Water Milfoil look like?

Eurasian Milfoil looks almost like Northern Milfoil, which is native to Minnesota. But, Eurasian Milfoil has 12 to 21 leaflet pairs, while Northern Milfoil has only 5 to 10 leaflet pairs. But, the best way to tell the two apart is to pick them up. Eurasian Milfoil is limp and soft, while Northern Milfoil (the native species) is stiff.



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Eurasian Water-milfoil

Red to olive-green, branching stems.

Feathery, dark green leaves, 1"-2" long.

Forms dense mats at water surface.



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