



IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Eurasian Watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

SEARCH LOCATIONS

In 3-12 feet of water in lakes or bays with soft sediment

SEARCH TIME

May through September

SEARCH IMAGE

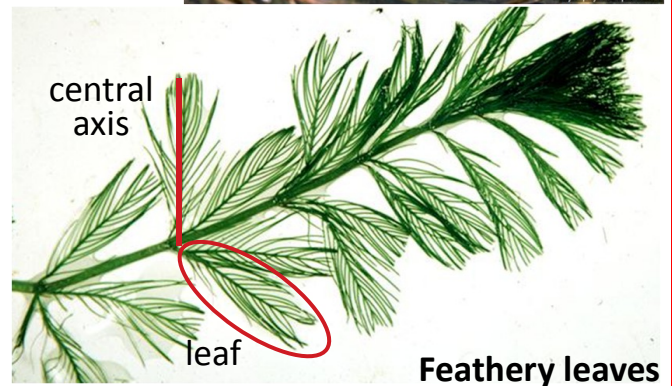
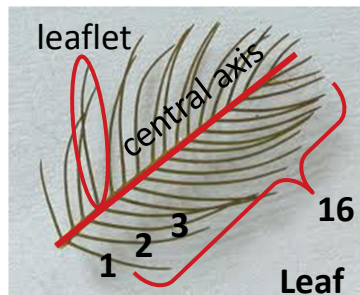
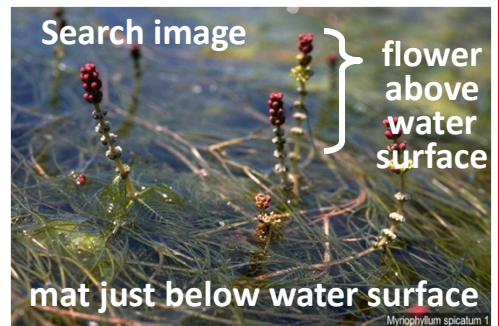
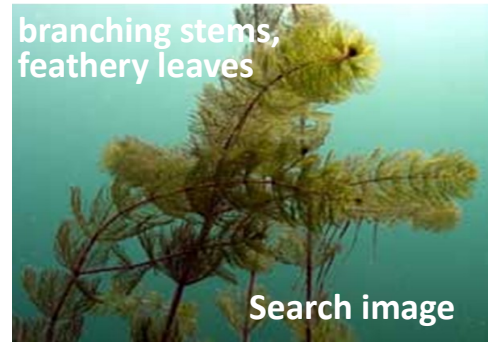
- Branching stems may/not form **mats** just below water surface (flowers may extend above water)
- **Feathery leaves**

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Leaves have a **central axis**
- ✓ **12 or more leaflet pairs** on leaf (hint: count the leaflets on one side of the axis)

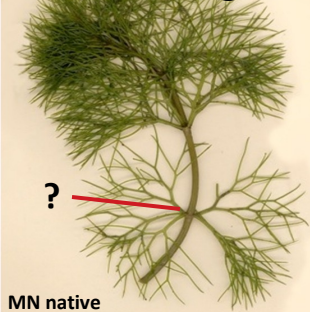
OTHER HELPFUL NOTES

- Leaves **hang limp** when out of water
- Leaflets at the ends of the leaves tend to form a **blunt tip**—rather than tapered
- Plants have a **reddish hue**



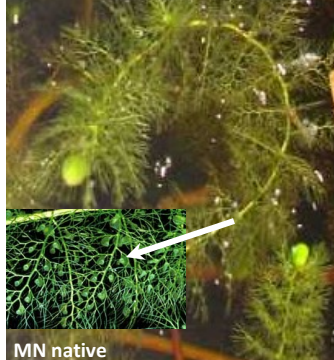
LOOK-ALIKES with feathery leaves

Water marigold



Water marigold leaves have **no central axis**

Bladderworts



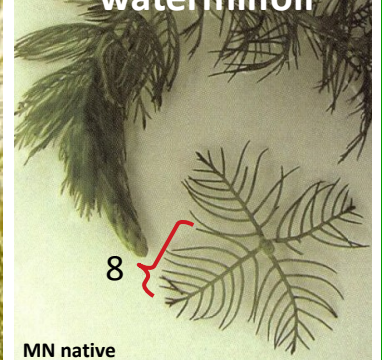
Bladderworts have leaves with **small sacs**

Coontail



Coontail leaves have **no central axis**

Northern watermilfoil



Northern watermilfoil has **less than 12 leaflet pairs**

INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

MINNESOTA STATUS: *Prohibited invasive species*

It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce Eurasian watermilfoil except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURANCE OF EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

- 1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
- 2) Record the date
- 3) Document the plant (electronic images or make pressed samples that include items on the “checklist”)
- 4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Rich Rezanka (richard.rezanka@state.mn.us)

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION

- Stem segments can root and grow into new plant (stems break from waves, boat propellers, harvesting)
- Underground stems (rhizomes) spread outward from original plant
- Seeds have poor germination

VECTORS OF SPREAD

- Plants or stem fragments in/on boats, motors, live wells, bilges, boat trailers, other equipment

STRATEGIES FOR RESTORING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY

(Contact your local MN DNR for permit and specific details)

- 1) Ongoing Eurasian watermilfoil control, including chemical and mechanical treatments (biocontrols are being tested for potential release—weevils, midge and caddisfly)
- 2) Allow native aquatic plant community to recover

RESOURCES

Printed

Czarapata, E.J. 2005, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest – an illustrated guide to their identification and control*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 215 pp.

Web

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and

