

Parrot feather watermilfoil

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Description

This species is listed on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list. Best surveyed in summer and fall; common water garden and aquarium plant.

Habit

Herbaceous, aquatic plant, 2-5 m (6.5-16.5 ft) in length, may emerge 30 cm (1 ft) out of water, forms monotypic stands.

Leaves

Bright blue-green in color, densely whorled, pinnately divided, submerged leaves with 10-18 segments on each side, 2-5 cm (0.5-1.25 in) long.

Stems

Can be up to 5 feet long, trail along the ground or water surface, becoming erect and leafy at the ends.

Flowers

If present, will emerge from axils of leaves.





Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are achenes, 1.5-2 mm. long.

Habitat

Native to South America. Found in lakes, ponds, slow streams and mudflats, where the emergent form is found; tolerates water level fluctuations and thrives in high nutrient sites.

Reproduction

Fragments dispersed by boats and currents; all US plants appear to be female.

Similar

Submersed form can be mistaken for the Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Most effective treatment is use of Glyphosate and 2,4-D, diquat, diquat and complex copper in summer or fall when water levels are low. Clearing off all boats and water-related equipment can prevent spreading.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Burke Museum Of Natural History and Culture and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<https://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<https://images.google.com>).