

## 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**

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