

## Starry stonewort

### *Nitellopsis obtusa*

#### Description

This species is listed on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list. Appears in July and increases through October.

#### Habit

Aquatic macroalga with smooth, irregular branches; rootlike rhizoids. Forms dense mats that cover lake bottoms.

#### Leaves

Whorls of 5-8 fine, uneven-length branches arise at an acute angle from nodes. Contents can be squeezed out of tube-like cell wall when cut; dark reddish gametangia.

#### Stems

May reach 80 cm (33 in) in length.

#### Flowers

Lacks true flowers. Cream colored bulbs form at the base of each cluster of branches.

#### Fruits and Seeds





### **Habitat**

Native to Europe and Asia. Found in still or slow moving waters; grows at depths ranging from 1 m (39 in) to 30 m (~93 ft).

### **Reproduction**

Probably introduced in ballast water. Dispersed by boats, waterfowl.

### **Similar**

Common stonewort (*Chara vulgaris*), which feels brittle and scaly, unlike the starry stonewort.

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Algaecides and mechanical harvesting.

### **Credits**

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