

Hybrid watermilfoil

Myriophyllum xspicatum

Description

Newly discovered hybrid of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and native northern watermilfoil (*M. sibiricum*). This species can only be identified by its molecular composition.

Habit

Submergent aquatic perennial, commonly ranges from 1-3 m (3-10 ft) in length but may reach 4 m (33 ft), forms dense mats.

Leaves

Submerged, feather-like, 4-5 leaves with 9-21 threadlike pairs of leaflets whorled around stem at each node, bright green in color, limp when out of water.

Stems

Thick near the base, becoming more slender and branching near the water surface; usually 1-3 m (3-10 ft) long.

Flowers





Inconspicuous, yellow in color, 4-parted, flower spikes rise 5-10 cm (2-4 in) above water surface.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod that contains 4 seeds.

Habitat

Have been found in large numbers of populations across North America. It has spread rapidly across the Great Lakes region over the past several years.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by fragmentation and creeping runners; seeds viable but not an important dispersal mechanism; unlike many aquatic plants, it does not produce turions.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor water bodies for new colonies. Public education and prevention is critical. Reduce nutrient enrichment where possible; hand pull or rake out colonies, removing all fragments; biological control with native herbivorous weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) shows promise; herbicides show mixed results; check current research -treatment rapidly evolving. Permits are usually required for herbicide use in water bodies and wetlands. For information see MDEQs Aquatic Nuisance Control website at: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3681_3710---,00.html

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