

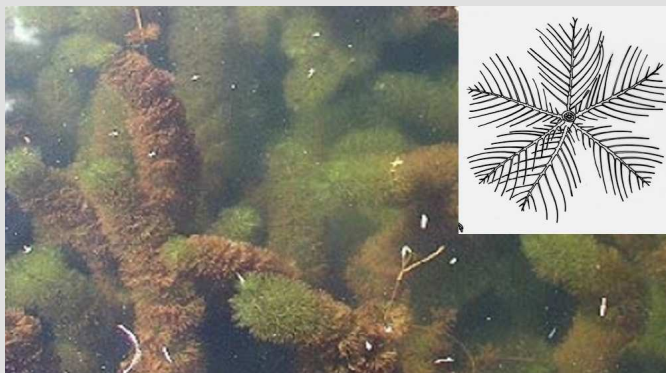
Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Invasive to Maine

Variable Watermilfoil

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Leaves



Leslie J. Mehrhoff UC, www.invasive.org



Look for leaves that look brushlike and have closely-spaced whorls (less than 5 mm apart) of 4 to 6 leaves on the stem. There are 5 to 14 pairs of thread-like leaflets per leaf (see diagram).

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
 EMERGENT	 ALTERNATE	 ELLIPTICAL	 FEATHER DIVIDED
 FLOATING LEAF	 OPPOSITE	 BLADE	 FORK DIVIDED
 SUBMERSED	 WHORLED	 OVAL	 BRANCH DIVIDED

Plant



Leslie J. Mehrhoff UC, www.invasive.org



Look for a plant with branches that look like raccoon tails. Variable Watermilfoil grows underwater up to 5 m deep with flower spikes only emerging in July and August.

Stem



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for stems that are most often thick and reddish in color. They rise from large clusters of roots.

Seasonal Change



Ann Murray CFAP/Leslie J. Mehrhoff UC



In July and August look for flowers that are tiny and white. They appear in whorls (see chart above) on spikes that rise above the water.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

Variable Watermilfoil and 2 native species, Farwell's and Low Watermilfoils, have a very small space between the whorls of leaves (less than 5 mm). Variable Watermilfoil always forms whorls and has flowers above the surface. The native species do not always form whorls and have underwater flowers.

Fun Fact

Variable watermilfoil grows well in all conditions: still and flowing waters, under ice, at depths of 1 to 15 meters, in mud, silt, sand, and gravel. When lakes dry up, it can even change into a land plant and survive until the water comes back.