

Myriophyllum spicatum

Invasive to Maine

Eurasian Watermilfoil,
Spike Watermilfoil

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Leaves



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for leaves that look like feathers. The feather-divided leaves are in whorls (see leaf chart). There are 4 to 6 whorls on each stem and a 1 to 3 cm space separating each whorl.

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



Ann Murray, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for a plant growing completely underwater with lots of feathery branches. Eurasian Watermilfoil is most often found in water 0.5 to 3.5 m deep.

Stem



Ann Murray, University of Florida

PERMITTED USE

Look for stems with lots of branches. Stems are reddish-brown to pinkish-white and grow up to 3 m in length.

Seasonal Change



Permission by IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants

PERMITTED USE

In July and August look for flower spikes with whorls (see diagram above) of tiny red flowers rising above the water.

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Similar Species

Eurasian Watermilfoil has up to 24 pairs of leaflets per leaf! There are many milfoil species in Maine but no native species have more than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf. If you count more than 14, you have found an invasive species. If you count more than 18, you have found Eurasian Watermilfoil!

Fun Fact

Eurasian Watermilfoil has the incredible ability to grow a whole new plant from tiny pieces that have broken off (this is called fragmentation)! If these tiny pieces get caught in boat propellers, they can easily travel to new places.