IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:  
Eurasian Watermilfoil  
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

**SEARCH LOCATIONS**  
In 3-12 feet of water in lakes or bays with soft sediment

**SEARCH TIME**  
May through September

**SEARCH IMAGE**  
- Branching stems may/not form **mats** just below water surface (flowers may extend above water)  
- **Feathery leaves**

**IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

- Leaves have a **central axis**
- **12 or more leaflet pairs** on leaf  
  (hint: count the leaflets on one side of the axis)

**OTHER HELPFUL NOTES**  
- Leaves **hang limp** when out of water  
- Leaflets at the ends of the leaves tend to form a **blunt tip**—rather than tapered  
- Plants have a **reddish hue**

**LOOK-ALIKES** with **feathery leaves**

- **Water marigold**  
  - MN native  
  - Water marigold leaves have **no central axis**

- **Bladderworts**  
  - MN native  
  - Bladderworts have leaves with **small sacs**

- **Coontail**  
  - MN native  
  - Coontail leaves have **no central axis**

- **Northern watermilfoil**  
  - MN native  
  - Northern watermilfoil has less than 12 leaflet pairs

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INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:
Eurasian Watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)

MINNESOTA STATUS: Prohibited invasive species
It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce Eurasian watermilfoil except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURRENCE OF EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL, contact your local MN DNR
Name and contact information can be found at:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION
- Stem segments can root and grow into new plant (stems break from waves, boat propellers, harvesting)
- Underground stems (rhizomes) spread outward from original plant
- Seeds have poor germination

VECTORS OF SPREAD
- Plants or stem fragments in/on boats, motors, live wells, bilges, boat trailers, other equipment

STRATEGIES FOR RESTORING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY
(Contact your local MN DNR for permit and specific details)
1) Ongoing Eurasian watermilfoil control, including chemical and mechanical treatments (biocontrols are being tested for potential release—weevils, midge and caddisfly)
2) Allow native aquatic plant community to recover

RESOURCES
Printed

Web
Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: http://www.invasive.org