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
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
1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
2) Record the date
3) Document the plant (electronic images or make pressed samples that include items on the “checklist”)
4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Rich Rezanka
   (richard.rezanka@state.mn.us)

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
MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and