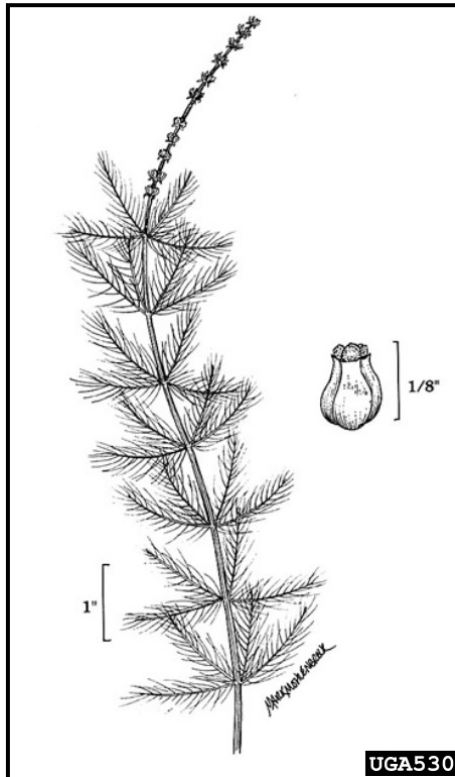


CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Also called: Spiked watermilfoil



Family name: Watermilfoil family (Haloragaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

General: Eurasian water milfoil is a submerged perennial aquatic plant with stems from 6 up to 33 feet long. Stems are green, reddish-brown or whitish pink stems.

Leaves: The leaves are olive green occurring in whorls of 3 or 4, and less than 2 inches long. They are soft and feather-like in texture.

Flowers: Yellow to reddish and very small. They are held above the water on a flower spike that is 2 to 4 inches long.

Fruit: Hard, segmented capsule containing four seeds, ripe from July through September. Eurasian watermilfoil can also grow from plant fragments and is dispersed by wildlife and boats.

Look-alikes: Northern watermilfoil is a native aquatic species that occurs in still water.

Habitat: Lake, marsh, pond, river, stream, salt marsh. Eurasian watermilfoil tolerates

water from 1.6-15 feet deep. It can grow in still or moving water and can thrive in disturbed and polluted waters.

Threats to native habitats: Eurasian watermilfoil rapidly forms dense mats that exclude native plants. It can also infest waterways so they are impassable for recreational and commercial use. Decomposition of the mats reduce oxygen levels in the water, and threatens survival of aquatic animals. Eurasian watermilfoil is known to hybridize with the native Northern watermilfoil.



NJ Status: Eurasian watermilfoil is widespread. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Not found.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture
Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://newsinfo.nd.edu/content.cfm?topicid=23587>
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=78>
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/mysp1.htm>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 493.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

