

EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL

Quick Reference Guide for Landowner Management

What is it?

Eurasian water-milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant found throughout the Mississippi Valley watershed. This invasive is hard to manage because of its ability to reproduce from a single broken fragment.

How to Identify

Eurasian water-milfoil can easily be mistaken for its native form Northern water-milfoil. To tell them apart, count the number of tiny leaf-like segments



Northern Water-Milfoil

Leafy with sparse branches and green tips

4-5 feather-like whorls less than 11 segment pairs

Small pink flowers



Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Leafy with many branches and reddish stem tips

3-6 feather-like whorls

12-21 segment pairs

Larger pink or white flowers

Hand Pulling Best Practices

1. Properly identify the plants as Eurasian milfoil before planning to pull
2. Do not complete any in-water work before June 15th (fish spawning) or after September (weak plants)
3. Read and follow all rules laid out by the province of Ontario
4. Create a plan to keep yourself and others safe while working around water
5. Have at least 1 person in the water raking/pulling and 1 person in a boat or on the dock to net any broken fragments
6. Wrap the plant around your hand or rake to prevent some fragmentation and get a better grip
7. Try not to stir up the sediment too much as it will reduce visibility
8. Do on cloudy days for better visuals
9. Increase efficiency by doing in shallow areas such as around boat launches or near shore

Please refer to our Best Management Practices for Lake Associations Information Guide for more information and extra resources