

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

The Eurasian watermilfoil is a fast growing, submerged, perennial, aquatic plant that can be found growing in water as deep as 10 metres, but 1 to 3 metre depths are preferred. This invasive plant can quickly take over and form thick mats in lakes and rivers. Even a small piece of the plant can be transferred to a new area and form new plants. This non-native plant reduces the ecosystem biodiversity as it crowds out native species and decreases recreational value. As it grows in dense patches it creates stagnant water that attracts mosquitoes which can impact recreational activities. The leaves of Eurasian watermilfoil have 12 or more thread-like segments. Native species may look similar but have less than 12 leaf segments.

Eurasian water-milfoil was introduced to North America in the 1940s, originally coming from Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa and has spread rapidly developing a very wide distribution. It is believed that this plant was first introduced to North America by ballast water of ships or from aquarium activities.

Identification



Photo credit: OFAH Ontario Invasive Species

- 3 to 5 green feather-like leaves that form a circle around the stem
- 12 or more thread-like segments on each leaf
- The plant grows under water with small red flowers that extend 5 to 20 centimetres above the water
- Plant blooms in late July and early August
- It grows in very large dense stands

saskatchewan.ca/tip

TIP LINE: 1-800-667-7561

SaskTel Cell: #5555

How would Eurasian watermilfoil get here?

Eurasian watermilfoil primarily spread to new areas by getting caught in boat propellers, trailers and equipment. It can also be spread by people dumping aquariums that contains this plant into a water system. Even a small piece of this invasive plant can form new plants and spread rapidly. Once established, it is near impossible to eradicate. Inspecting your equipment and reporting findings is important to help stop the spread.

What can I do to prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil?

Clean, drain and dry your boat and equipment thoroughly before launching into a new area. Remove and dispose all vegetation, animals and mud into enclosed garbage cans.

Never use invasive species as bait or in your aquarium; always check with the sellers to be sure. Make others aware of this invasive plant and report any findings to the Saskatchewan TIP line .

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



Current Saskatchewan Regulation

The Fisheries Regulations prohibit Saskatchewan residents and visitors from importing, possessing, transporting or selling aquatic invasive species.

Report Sightings

Report any sightings to the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP line.

Need more information or have questions?

Call 1-800-567-4224 (in North America) or email centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.

For a complete list of prohibited species, [click here](#)

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