

Eurasian Watermilfoil



SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Myriophyllum spicatum L. ([ITIS](#))

COMMON NAME:

Eurasian watermilfoil, spiked watermilfoil

NATIVE TO:

Europe, Asia, and North Africa ([Eiswerth et al. 2000](#))

DATE OF U.S. INTRODUCTION:

Exact date unknown; between the 1880s and the 1940s ([Eiswerth et al. 2000](#))

MEANS OF INTRODUCTION:

Unknown, possibly through the aquarium trade or transport of watercraft ([Nichols and Shaw 1986](#))

IMPACT:

Crowds out native species ([Smith and Barko 1990](#))

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Jim Spetz, Medina County Park Naturalist, said Eurasian Watermilfoil is growing in Chippewa Lake but it can be removed manually. Milfoil is the fern-like plant growing near our docks and visible in shallow water.

Just be careful to remove it completely from the lake. If you pull out the plant, try to remove the root (in the lake bottom) as well. The plant self-fragments and pieces of milfoil from patches break off the parent plant and re-root nearby. When you clean your propellers, bring the milfoil back to land. DO NOT THROW ANY MILFOIL BACK IN THE LAKE. It is safe to put on land or in a garden where it will not be swept back into the lake.

Please do not put chemicals in the Lake. Many of the chemicals that are commonly used to control submersed plants come with use restrictions (i.e., no swimming, drinking, irrigation, etc.) that must be posted for a specified period of time to help keep people safe. Additionally, application of any of these chemicals would generally require notification with the state to be used in a body of water like Chippewa Lake.

Deceptively delicate and fragile in appearance, the Eurasian watermilfoil forms thick mats in shallow areas of a lake, quickly growing and spreading to block sunlight, killing off native aquatic plants that fish and other underwater species rely on for food and shelter. In North America, the plant threatens the diversity and abundance of native plants as well as the ecological balance of lakes and ponds, which in turn adversely affects recreational opportunities. If left unchecked, invasive watermilfoil will spread through a lake, or even to other lakes by transmission.

If you are a boater try not to drive through these floating watermilfoil mats. Check and clean your prop every time you leave your dock. Eurasian watermilfoil will foul engine props and jet skis (immediately). Swimmers should also avoid trying to swim through this floating plant as well.