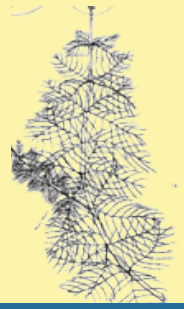




NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum sibiricum



Northern watermilfoil is a native aquatic plant that is often confused for the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil. It generally grows over a meter long, its green stem drying white. It is lined with whorls of fanlike green leaves divided into many narrow, feathery lobes.

Habitat Preference

Found in soft to hard lakes, ponds and slow-moving rivers with sandy or boggy bottoms. Mostly in less than 5 feet deep water.

Characteristics:

Vegetative

- Leaf type: Feather-like.
- Leaf shape: Fanned.
- Leaf arrangement: Whorled along the stem (usually 4 leaves in a whorl).
- Leaf position: 5 - 12 leaflets on each side of the midstem, submerged underwater.

Flower

- Number of petals/sepals: 4 petals.
- Color: pink (female) or white (male).
- Attachment: Fruit: brown, 2-3 millimeters long with 4 smooth lobes.

Seed

- 4 seeds enclosed in the fruit (2-3 millimeters long, with 4 smooth lobes).





NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum sibiricum

CULTURAL HISTORY NOTES

Used by the Iroquois to treat poor blood circulation in adolescents.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

Biological

- Provides nutrients to waterfowl (leaves and fruit).

Chemical

- Decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called “detritus”) for many aquatic invertebrates .

Physical

- Traps detritus and provides invertebrate habitat, shade, and shelter.

Similar Species

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- Aquatic invasive plant common in Lake Champlain and surrounding waterbodies.
- High tolerance of low temperatures - starts growing earlier than other vegetation and form canopies that block light, which inhibits the growth of native plants and can lead to their displacement.



How to differentiate northern watermilfoil and Eurasian watermilfoil

- These two species are very similar looking and often confused for each other.
- Northern watermilfoil has twelve or fewer pairs of leaflets on each leaf , while Eurasian watermilfoil has more than twelve pairs of leaflets on each leaf.
- Northern watermilfoil tends to remain stiff out of the water, while Eurasian watermilfoil will lilt out of water.
- Eurasian watermilfoil has stems that are thicker below the inflorescence while those of Eurasian watermilfoil are uniform.

Scan to learn more about Lake Champlain's native aquatic plants!



The Lake Champlain Committee is a watershed-based nonprofit that uses science-based advocacy, education, and collaborative action to protect and restore water quality, safeguard natural habitats and ensure recreational access in the Lake Champlain Basin.



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UNDER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT 1U00A007070 TO NEWPCC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM