

# *Myriophyllum spicatum*

## EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

### Haloragaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** 2

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

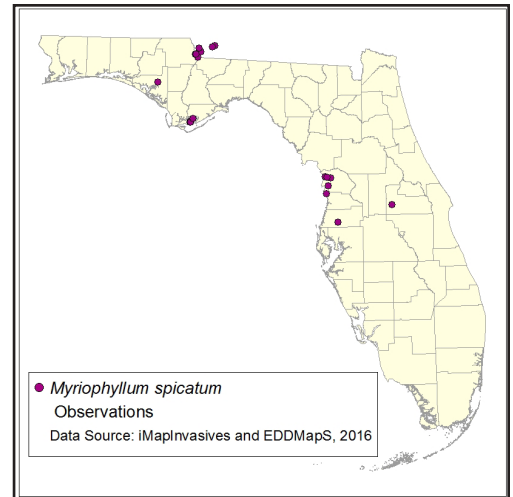
**IFAS Assessment**

North	PROHIBITED
Central	PROHIBITED
South	PROHIBITED

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 6a-10b

**Growth Habit:** Aquatic submersed herb

**Origin:** Eurasia and Africa



Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Perennial, floating or rooted, submersed aquatic herb with many-branched, slender, reddish stems to 3 m long or longer, often forming dense mats just below the surface of the water. Rhizomatous, rooting at the nodes and reproducing vegetatively by fragmented stems. Submersed leaves gray green, in whorls of 3 or 4, divided into 14-20 pairs of thread-like segments, appearing feathery. Emergent leaves reduced to tiny bracts subtending the inflorescences. Flowers tiny, solitary, in leaf axils of reduced leaf whorls on erect, emergent, spikes to 20 cm tall. Male flowers in upper leaf whorls, female flowers in lower whorls, bisexual flowers often occur in the middle of the spike. Bisexual and male flowers reddish. Fruit a tiny, 4-lobed, rounded capsule to 3 mm across.

**NOTE:** Distinguish from nonnative *M. aquaticum*, which has emergent leafy branches, from the native *Myriophyllum* species which has leafy flower spikes and reddish, less dissected leaves, and from the native *Ceratophyllum demersum* which has rough toothed leaves.

**Habitat:** lakes, streams, brackish water

**Comments:** Spreads and reproduces mainly by regrowth of plant fragments.

**Florida Introduction Date:** 1940s

**Control Methods:**

**Mechanical:** Water level manipulation (drawdown) has been used effectively to control Eurasian water-milfoil in Tennessee reservoirs (IFAS)

**Chemical:** Registered aquatic herbicides such as endothall, 2,4-D and fluridone provide temporary control of Eurasian water-milfoil, but efforts to eradicate the plant "are rarely, if ever, likely to succeed" (IFAS)

**Biocontrol:** Insects have been used to help keep Eurasian water-milfoil under control; fish also have been successfully used (IFAS)

**Useful Resources:**

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Eurasian water milfoil. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/32101/>. Accessed on June 23, 2014.  
IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2014. Eurasian water-milfoil. <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/278>. Accessed on June 26, 2014.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.