**Myriophyllum spicatum**

**EURASIAN WATER MILfoil**

*Haloragaceae*

Common Synonyms: none

**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: Similar to several other submersed aquatic plants. The non-native *M. aquaticum* has emergent leafy branches. The native *Myriophyllum* species have leafy flower spikes and reddish, less dissected leaves. The native *Ceratophyllum demersum* has rough toothed leaves.

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

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**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:**


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