

PIEDMONT WATER MILFOIL

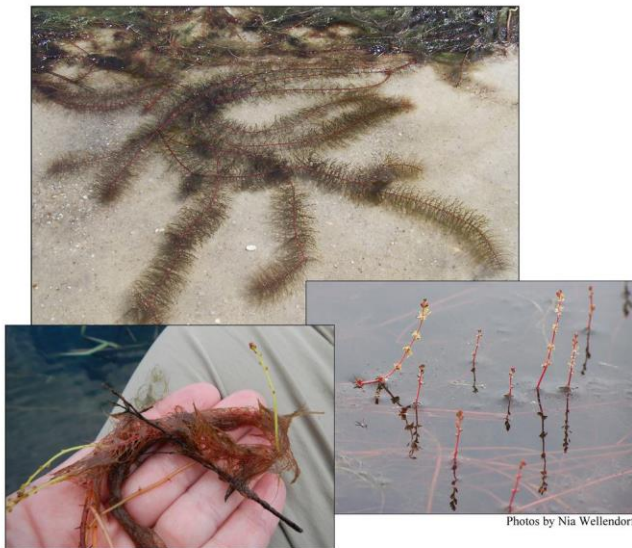
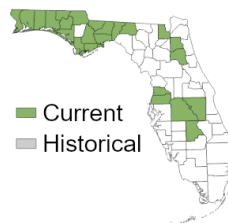
Myriophyllum laxum Shuttlw. ex Chapman

Synonyms: none

Family: Haloragaceae (water milfoil)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-none



Photos by Nia Wellendorf

Field Description: Submersed aquatic plant with emergent flowering stem. Stems red and slender. Leaves bright green to reddish, in whorls of 4 to 5, and alternately pinnate. Leaves not as feathery looking as other *Myriophyllum* species. Flowers are pinkish on slender red stems above the water. Bracts are inconspicuous and much shorter than nodes between flowers, giving the red stem a naked appearance between flowers.

Similar Species: *Cabomba caroliniana*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, and *Limnophila sessiflora* have dissected (forked or branching) leaves. *Myriophyllum* species are best separated when flowering. *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* and *M. pinnatum* flowering stems have bracts that are showy and longer than the distance between nodes on the stem, have thicker stems overall, and their submersed leaves are feathery in appearance.

Related Rare Species: No related rare species.

Habitat: Natural ponds and lakes, blackwater streams, impoundments, canals, and roadside ditches.

Piedmont water milfoil

Myriophyllum laxum

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: From eastern North Carolina south to peninsular Florida and west to southern Mississippi.

Conservation Status: It is threatened by exotic species, hydrologic changes, pollution, and disturbance from motorized vessel traffic.

Protection and Management: Minimize disturbances to water quality from pollution, sedimentation, and motorized vessels.

References: Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011