

*Myriophyllum spicatum*

# Eurasian Watermilfoil

Other common names:

spike watermilfoil, Eurasian milfoil, milfoil

Haloragaceae, the watermilfoil family

Category: CONTROL



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Submersed perennial with feather-like leaves
- Leaves are arranged around the stem in whorls of 4
- Leaves generally have 12 or more leaflet pairs (northern watermilfoil usually has fewer than 12 leaflet pairs)
- Leaves typically limp when removed from the water
- Flowers are minute, pink, and arranged in whorls on reddish spikes that stand above the water surface
- Plant stems below flowering spike double in thickness

## Background

- Native to Eurasia and Northern Africa; introduced as an aquarium plant
- Inhabits ponds, lakes, streams, canals, and ditches
- Reproduces primarily by plant fragments
- Forms dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface
- Out-competes native vegetation, impedes navigations, and recreation

Photo Credit:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture