

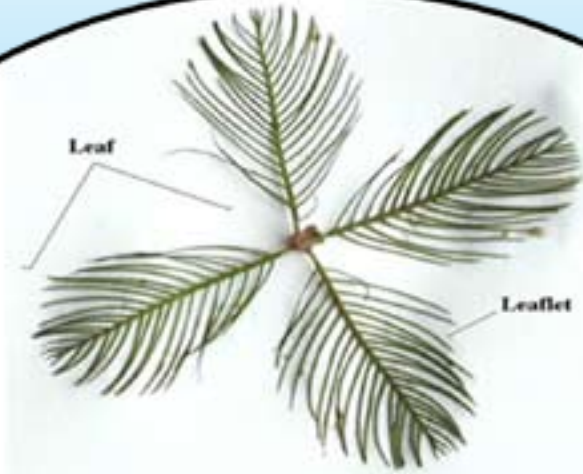
≈ Have you seen this water weed?

Eurasian watermilfoil is not native to Montana, and once it starts growing, it is very difficult to control.

To identify Eurasian Watermilfoil:

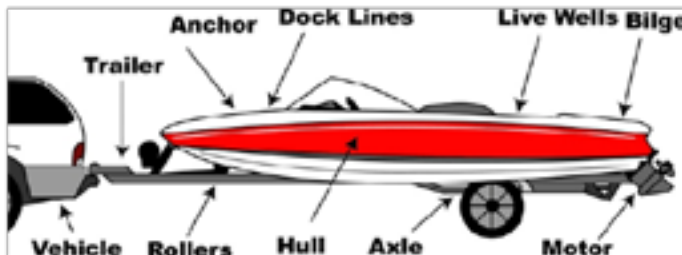
- Count the pairs of leaflets. Eurasian Watermilfoil has 12 or more pairs.
- It has a feather-like appearance. The leaves collapse around the stem when removed from the water.
- The topmost leaves and stems may be reddish-brown or pink.
- Mature leaves are usually arranged in whorls of four around the stem.

**If you see this plant, contact:
Montana Department of Agriculture
406.444.3144**



≈ What can you do to help?

The best way to control Eurasian Watermilfoil is to prevent the weed from spreading to new areas. Here's how:



1. INSPECT: After leaving a lake or stream, inspect your boat (see graphic below) and gear for mud, water, and vegetation that could carry aquatic invasive species.

2. CLEAN: Completely remove all mud, water, and vegetation you find. Boaters should use a pressurized power sprayer, found at most do-it-yourself car washes. The hot water helps kill organisms and the pressure removes mud and vegetation. No need to use soap or chemicals.

3. DRY: Aquatic invaders can survive only in water and wet areas. By drying your boating and fishing equipment thoroughly, you will kill most invasive species. The longer you can keep your boat, trailer, waders, wading boots, and other equipment outside in the hot sun between fishing trips, the better.

**If you see this plant, contact:
Montana Department of Agriculture
406.444.3144**

**Or your local Eurasian
Watermilfoil Task Force:**



MONTANA Noxious Weed Alert: Eurasian Watermilfoil

**You can help save
Montana's waterways**



≈ Why is Eurasian Watermilfoil a problem?

Eurasian Watermilfoil can cost Montana millions of dollars a year to manage.

Eurasian Watermilfoil is a highly aggressive aquatic plant that can form dense mats which clog waterways and crowd out native aquatic plants. It has no natural enemies to control it in Montana.



Protect our pristine lakes for your future.

This has major implications for Montana:

1. Eurasian Watermilfoil may impair recreational uses of a waterway, including boating, swimming, and fishing; and
2. Dense growth can lead to deteriorating water quality, thereby altering and degrading the habitat of native fish and wildlife.
3. Montana's agriculture community can also be impacted from Eurasian Watermilfoil by choking ditches and canals along with clogging irrigation intake pipes and screens.

≈ Where in Montana is Eurasian Watermilfoil?

The largest known infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Montana is in the Lower Clark Fork River. During the summer of 2010, Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in Fort Peck, the Upper Missouri, and the Jefferson River in Montana.

See the map below for locations.



Map courtesy of JHS, Inc. created by Patrick Dougherty

≈ How does it spread?

Eurasian Watermilfoil is easily spread by plant fragments that may be carried by water currents, boats, motors, trailers, live wells, water skis, bait buckets, or other gear. Eurasian Watermilfoil fragments can stay alive for weeks, if they remain wet.

DO NOT pull a plant if you spot one! This could cause fragments to break loose and spread more.

≈ Who can stop it?

All of us! All Montanans and out-of-state recreationalists, vacationers, and travelers can help stop the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other aquatic hitchhikers to Montana's uninfested waters.

The Missouri Headwaters Eurasian Watermilfoil Task Force was formed by a group of concerned people from county, state, and federal agencies along with other stakeholders in the Upper Missouri Watershed area. The Task Force works to increase education and awareness about the new invader. The Task Force is also working on management and containment options for this noxious weed.

