

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to Eurasia and Northern Africa, common throughout North America, including southern B.C.
- Submersed, perennial aquatic plant (macrophyte).
- Roots attach to substrate with slender, fragile rhizomes.
- Smooth, hairless stems grow up to 25 m to the water surface, branch profusely and self-fragment without disturbance.
- *Leaf shape and size distinguishes from other milfoils.*
- Leaves in whorls of 3 to 5 mostly 1 cm apart on stem, simply pinnate with 12 or more segments, segments rarely to 1.5 cm long in a regular feather-like arrangement, 1 to 2.5 mm apart.
- Thrives in fresh to brackish water 1 to 4 metres deep but can survive in depths up to 12.5 metres.
- Indicator of eutrophic (nutrient-rich, warm, low oxygen) conditions, but grows under a range of environments.

**PRIMARY THREAT: Spreads rapidly, impedes use of shallow waters for recreation, irrigation and alters natural ecosystems.**



### REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Eurasian watermilfoil hybridizes with native Siberian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)
- Dies back to propagating root crown buds in the Fall.

### SPREAD

- Reproduces mainly by stem and rhizome fragmentation and root crown buds; seed spread is rare.
- Local dispersal mainly by fragmentation in water currents.
- Long range dispersal mainly by attachment to boats, propellers, trailers or fishing tackle moved between waterbodies.

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/plants>

