EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL
Myriophyllum spicatum

Be on the lookout for this invader!

Photo: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Description:
Submergent, aquatic perennial, reaches 3-10 ft. or more in length; forms dense mats. Stems green, brown or pinkish white. Olive green leaves whorled, pinnately divided with 12-21 fine segments on each side. Leaves lie parallel with water surface. Male and female flowers on the same inflorescence. At least two other (native) watermilfoils occur in Northern Michigan.

Habitat:
Ponds, lakes and low-energy zones in rivers and streams. In depths of 3-15 ft.

Mode of Spread:
Vegetatively by fragmentation and runners; dispersed by boats and currents.
IDENTIFICATION

Stems: Thick near the base, becoming more slender and branching near the water surface; usually 3-10 ft. long.

Leaves: Submerged, feather-like, 4 (rarely 5) leaves whorled around stem at each node, each leaf with 12-21 (natives usually have 5-10) threadlike pairs of leaflets. Leaves have a “fish bone” appearance with a clipped tip. Bright green in color, limp when out of water.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, yellow in color, 4-parted, flower spikes rise 2-4” above water surface.

Fruit and Seeds: Seed pod that contains 4 seeds.

Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Burt Lake
- Clam Lake
- Clam River
- Elk Lake
- Lake Charlevoix
- Lake Huron
- Lake Michigan
- Long Lake
- Mullet Lake
- Paradise Lake
- Six Mile Lake
- St. Clair Lake
- Thumb Lake
- Torch Lake
- Torch River
- Walloon Lake

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