

EUROPEAN FROG-BIT

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae



Be on the lookout for this invader!



Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Description:

Aquatic, floating, herbaceous annual reaches 8" in length, with strong, cord-like stolons. Forms large colonies, creating dense mats. Kidney-shaped leaves that resemble tiny water lilies, 0.5" - 2.25" across. White three-petaled flowers with yellow at the base; blooms mid-summer.

Habitat:

Grows in open, still waters; found in lakes, ponds, ditches and along the sheltered edges of streams and rivers.

Mode of Spread:

Reproduces by vegetative buds, limited seed production. Spreads rapidly by stolons; dispersed by boats.

IDENTIFICATION

STEM



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

LEAVES

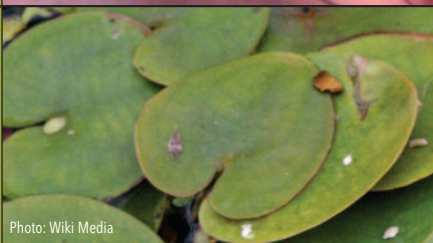


Photo: Wiki Media

FLOWERS



Stems: Strong; cord-like horizontal stolons. Free rooted with no vertical main stem.

Leaves: Usually floating, kidney shaped with long stems, dark purple underneath, resemble tiny water lilies, 0.5-2.25" across.

Flowers: White in color, cup-shaped, three-petaled with yellow dots at the base.

Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Not yet found in the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Service area.
- Fletcher Pond and Thunder Bay River, both near Alpena.
- Munuscong Lake at the east end of Upper Peninsula.

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council • www.watershedcouncil.org

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