

Michigan Lake & Stream Associations

The Four Most Destructive Aquatic Invasive Plants in Michigan



Scientific Name: **Myriophyllum Spicatum**

Eurasian Water Milfoil first appeared in Michigan over fifty years ago and has since infested several thousand inland lakes. This highly aggressive rooted aquatic plant prefers the soft, mucky bottoms of lakes with moderate to high biologic productivity. Early detection and management utilizing aquatic herbicides or milfoil weevils are critical in controlling this rapidly propagating foreign invasive aquatic plant species.

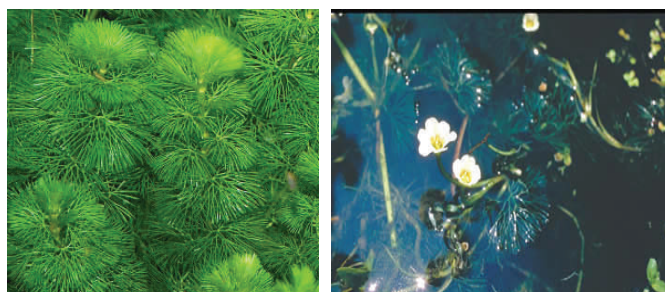
Eurasian Water Milfoil



Scientific Name: **Potamogeton Crispus**

Observed in Michigan inland lakes over one hundred years ago, curly-leaf pondweed is one of the first aquatic invasive plants to have entered Michigan's waters. Curly-leaf pondweed is an aggressive macrophyte plant that begins to grow rapidly in the spring often forming dense mats that interfere with recreational boating. The plant typically grows in eight to ten feet of waters.

Curly-Leaf Pondweed



Scientific Name: **Cabomba Caroliniana**

Fanwort is an attractive, though highly aggressive submerged invasive aquatic plant that poses a severe threat to inland lake eco-systems. Fanwort is characterized by large intricate leaves as well as by small white flowers that appear at the surface by mid-summer. This native of South America prefers the mucky bottoms of the shallow, quiet waters found in canals and near shore areas of inland lakes and ponds. This rapidly propagating plant will quickly force out beneficial native aquatic plants - early detection and control utilizing aquatic herbicides is highly recommended.

Fanwort



Scientific Name: **Nitellopsis obtusa**

Starry Stonewort is an invasive aquatic macrophyte algae that was first observed in Michigan waters in 2005. A native of western Europe, Starry Stonewort has now entered at least one hundred Michigan inland lakes. Thriving in shallow, near shore areas in inland lakes with relatively high calcium levels, this aggressive and rapidly propagating macro algae effectively destroys pan fish spawning areas by totally covering the lake's bottom, making critical fish habitat inaccessible for spawning. Starry Stonewort is one of the most destructive aquatic invasive species to have entered Michigan's inland lakes.

Starry Stonewort