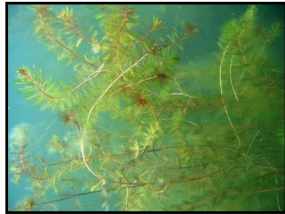


# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

**Aquatic Invasive Species are non-native plants and animals that have been introduced into an ecosystem where they do not belong.**



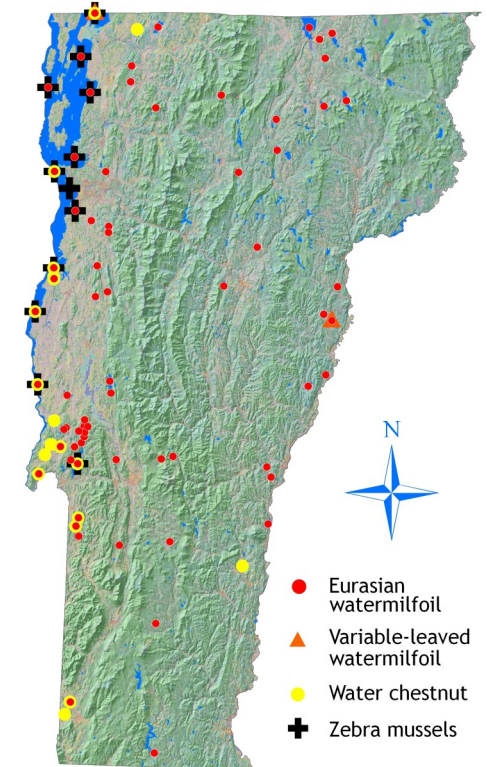
They pose a serious threat to the ecological integrity and recreational potential of Vermont's waters. Once introduced, the lack of predators can lead to extensive growth and high densities, hampering boating, fishing and swimming, and threatening to outcompete native species.

**Early Detection is vital** to protecting Vermont's waterbodies from harmful invasive plants and animals. When invasive species are detected soon after introduction, before they have had a chance to become well established, they can often be managed more effectively and, in some cases, even be eradicated.

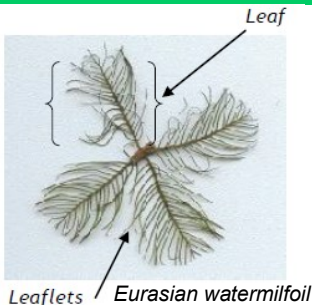
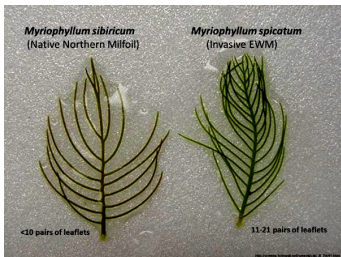


**Approximate Percentage of Vermont Lakes NOT infested with:**

- Eurasian watermilfoil: 79%
- Variable-leaved watermilfoil: 99%
- Water chestnut: 95%
- Zebra mussels: 99%

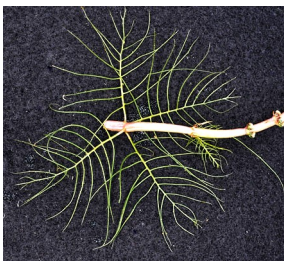


## Invasive Plants and Similar Native Plants - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



### INVASIVE Eurasian watermilfoil

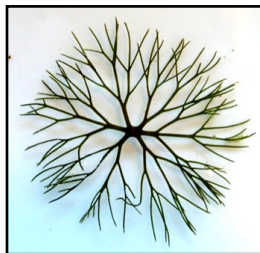
- Whorls of typically four feather-like leaves around the stem.
- Each leaf is finely divided into paired leaflets, **12 to 21** pairs per leaf.
- Appear bright green when growing in water.
- Plant structure is limp out of water.



Northern watermilfoil

### NATIVE Northern watermilfoil

- Whorls of typically four feather-like leaves around the stem
- Each leaf is finely divided into paired leaflets, **5 to 10** pairs per leaf.
- Appear brownish green in and out of water.
- Plant structure retains its shape out of water.



Water marigold

### NATIVE Water marigold

- Whorls of typically four branch-like leaves around the stem
- Each leaf is finely divided into paired leaflets, **5 to 10** pairs per leaf.
- Appear brownish green in and out of water.
- Plant structure retains its shape out of water.

For more information, please contact the VT Aquatic Invasive Species Team  
(802) 828-1115  
or visit the VT ANR DEC  
Lakes & Ponds Aquatic Invasives Webpage