Aquatic Plant Characteristics: Eurasian watermilfoil vs. Native Look-Alikes Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)	Northern watermilfoil (Myriophyllum sibiricum)	Coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum)	Common bladderwort (Utricularia macrorhiza)	Water marigold (Bidens beckii)
leaf		*		
Leaves are arranged in whorls of 4 around the stem. Each leaf is finely divided into paired leaflets, 12 to 21 pairs per leaflet.	Leaves are arranged in whorls of 4 around the stem. Each leaf is finely divided into paired leaflets, < 12 pairs per leaflet.	Leaves are arranged in a whorl around the stem. Each leaf is comprised of divisions that fork once or twice.	Leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each leaf branches many times and often bears small sacs or bladders.	Leaves are arranged in a whorl around the stem. Each leaf is comprised of branch-like divisions.
The tops of these plants, both stems and leaves, often turn red in color.	The tops of these plants are green and rarely red.	The tops of these plants can appear green, brown, or slightly reddish.	Bladderworts lack roots and are free-floating. Their color may range from green to brown.	The plants stems and leaves are
Plant structure is limp out of water.	Plant structure retains its shape out of water.	Plant structure retains its shape out of water.	Plant structure is limp out of water.	Plant structure is somewhat limp out of water.