

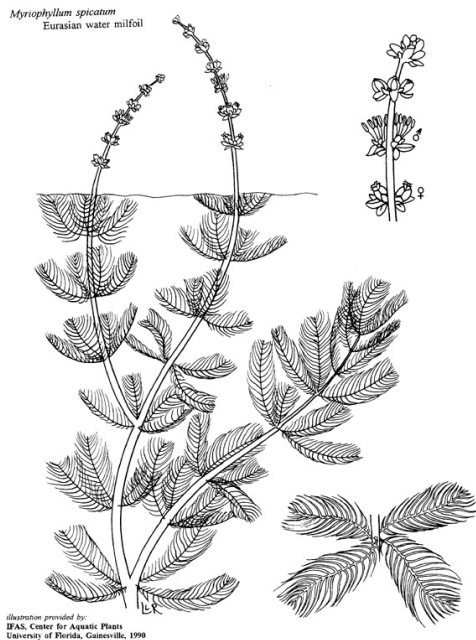
## Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

### What is it?

Eurasian milfoil is an invasive, non-native aquatic plant which is now considered a major nuisance in much of North America. Eurasian milfoil competes aggressively to displace and reduce the diversity of native aquatic plants

### Identification

Submerged, perennial aquatic plant. **Leaves:** whorled, feather-like, pinnately divided with 12 or more thread-like segments along each side, petiole absent or less than 2 mm. **Flowers:** emergent, on terminal spike above water, about 5-20 cm long, upper flowers male and lower flowers female, pink, in 3-10 whorls; bracts usually equal to twice (but no more) the length of female flowers. Flowers between late July and early August. **Stem:** leafy shoot, 0.5-7 m long, branching especially at water surface; tips usually reddish, stem below the inflorescence thicker to almost double the width of the lower stem.



### What can I do to control it?

There are basically three methods to remove/control Eurasian milfoil:

1. **Herbicides** – A permit will be required from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
2. **Jute mats** – Mats, usually comprised of a biodegradable burlap-like substance, are placed on the lake bed to prevent milfoil from becoming rooted. This technique may not be appropriate in areas with high boat traffic. Permits or authorization may be required from OMNRF and/or the Trent Severn Waterway. There is currently research being conducted by Trent University on some local lakes (Chandos and Big Cedar) to evaluate the effectiveness of this technique.
3. **Physical removal** - Probably the most common technique, involving the use of a thatching rake at the end of a long extendable handle (see photo). Often a fine mesh bag is attached to collect any fragments of the plant. Authorization may be required from OMNRF and/or TSW.



Costs to construct this rake may be summarized as follows:

**Pool Pole** - approximately \$29.99 plus taxes

**Thatching rakes** - can vary in price depending on when you buy it, Canadian Tire has it for around \$42.99

**Hardware** - You will need 2 bolts per rake and 4 nuts per rake, average cost per rake will be \$3.00- \$4.00 depending where you buy them and what grade bolts you buy.

Total cost of rake at the high end would be approximately \$75.00 per rake plus labour to build them.

**How do I report an invasive species?**

You can provide photos or a sample to the Invading Species Reporting Hotline at the following site: <http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/> or by calling the Invasive Species Hotline at the following toll-free number: 1-800-563-7711

## Further Information

<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=237>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/remove-invasive-aquatic-plants>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html>

<https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/eurasian-watermilfoil/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/eurasian-water-milfoil>

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/eurasian-water-milfoil/>

<http://kids.invadingspecies.com/profile/eurasian-watermilfoil>

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/inbox/id/AQQkADAwATczZmYBLTgwMABkLTFINzYtMDACLTAwCgAQAAVgFdrgr8IPte0eLC4AbQ%3D/sxs/AQMkADAwATczZmYBLTg>

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>

## Additional Contacts

**Brook Schryer** (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, invasive species coordinator) – general information on invasive species and possible control measures - [brook\\_schryer@ofah.org](mailto:brook_schryer@ofah.org) (705)-748-6324

**Deanna Panitz** (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations, invasive species coordinator) – outreach measures for cottagers - [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) (705)-749-3622

**Francine Macdonald** (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) – provincial invasive species policies and regulations - [francine.macdonald@ontario.ca](mailto:francine.macdonald@ontario.ca) (705)-755-5136

**Adam Challice** (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Bancroft District) – local permit requirements and authorizations - [adam.challice@ontario.ca](mailto:adam.challice@ontario.ca) (705)-286-5215