New Hampshire's
Prohibited Exotic Aquatic Plants
and some
Native Look-Alikes

Milfoil (Exotic)

Milfoil (Native)

A Project of the New Hampshire Lakes Association

The purpose of this booklet is to assist in the identification of exotic (non-native) aquatic plants so that their introduction into New Hampshire's public waters may be prevented or detected early.

Included, in alphabetical order, are the fourteen prohibited plants (RSA 487:16-a) whose common names appear in **RED**, followed by the word (**Exotic**). These are followed in alphabetical order by seven native aquatic plants including look-alikes, whose names appear in **GREEN** with the word (**Native**).

Please note: These are images of actual plants. Plants you see underwater may look different in size (+/-) or color.

As of January 1, 1998, the sale, distribution, importation, purchase, propagation, transportation, or introduction of exotic aquatic weeds in the state of New Hampshire was prohibited (RSA 487:16a). These exotic plants are particularly noxious because they are invasive, which means that they grow rapidly, spread easily, and out-compete native plants, thus impacting the natural ecosystem. Invasive plants compromise the recreational, ecological, and economic value of our public waters.

If you suspect that a plant you find may be one of the fourteen prohibited aquatic plants, please contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at 603/271-2248.

Acknowledgments

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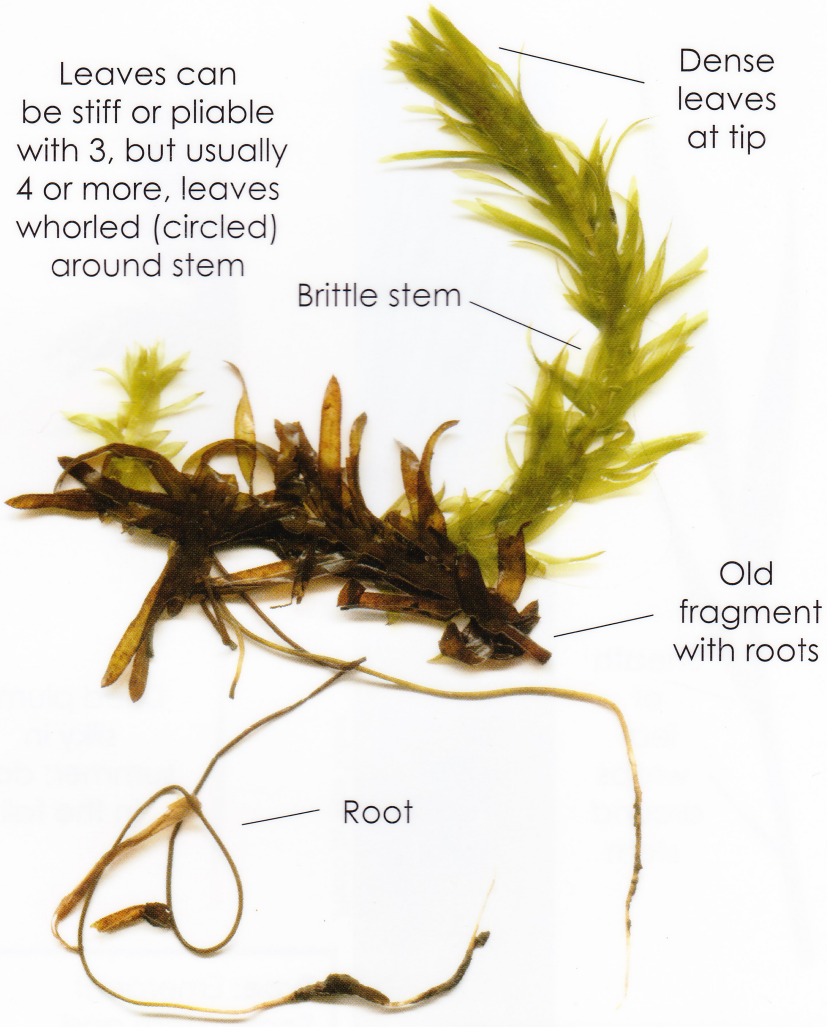
Brazilian Elodea (Exotic)

Egeria densa



Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: In dense patches
Mode of Infestation: Fragmentation

Common Reed (Exotic)

Phragmites australis

Sheath of leaf wraps around stem

Photo by Rae Tober

Dried plume silky in summer; dark in the fall

Type: Emergent
Scale: Stem and plume 14" or more
Grows: Up to 16 feet tall
Mode of Infestation: Trailing root system and seed dispersal

Curly Leaf Pondweed (Exotic)

Potamogeton crispus

Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: Up to 6 ft. long
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal and compact winter buds

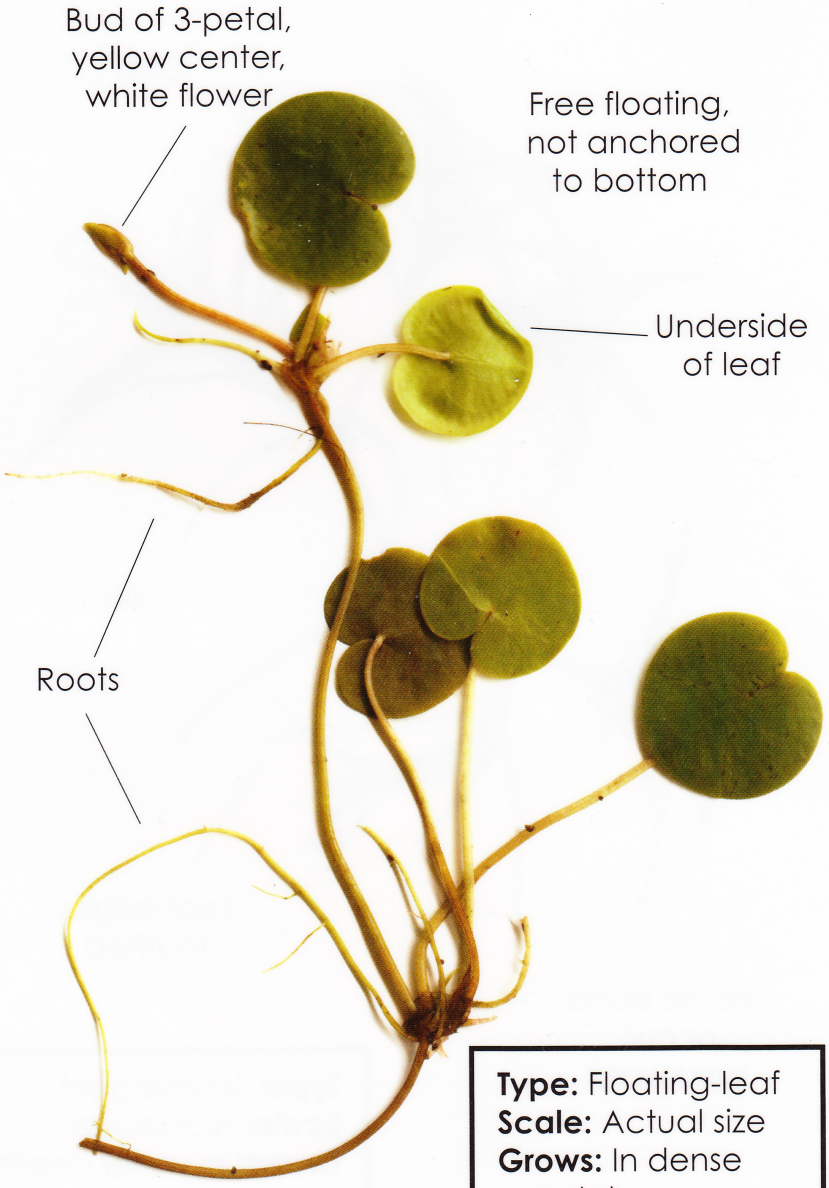
Eurasian Milfoil (Exotic)

Myriophyllum spicatum

Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 15 feet in length
Mode of Infestation: Fragmentation

European Frogbit (Exotic)

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae



Type: Floating-leaf
Scale: Actual size
Grows: In dense patches
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal

European Naiad (Exotic)

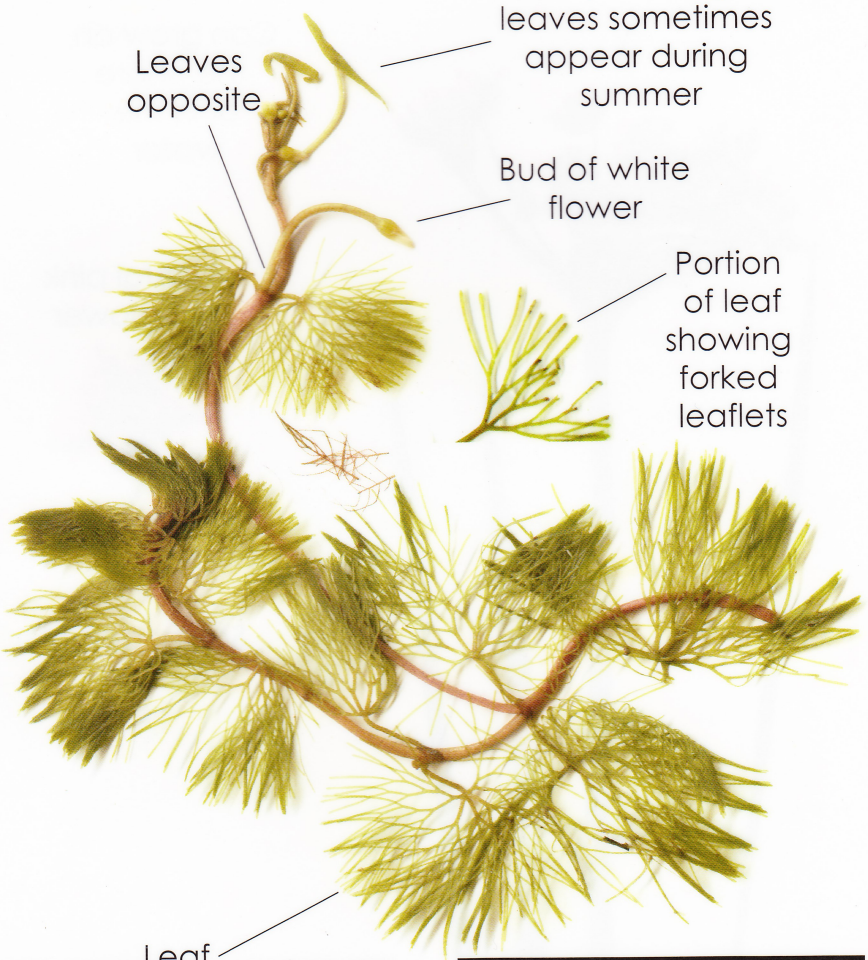
Najas minor

Leaves bend or curl backward

Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: In water depth of 15 feet
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal

Fanwort (Exotic)

Cabomba caroliniana



Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 7 feet in length
Mode of Infestation: Fragmentation

Flowering Rush (Exotic)

Butomus umbellatus

Flower head (3" tall)

Can grow on the shore or in the water

6-petal pink flower

Scale: actual size

Type: Emergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: 4 feet or more
Mode of Infestation: Trailing root system and seed dispersal

Hydrilla (Exotic)

Hydrilla verticillata

Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: 25 ft. or more
Mode of infestation: Fragmentation

Parrot Feather (Exotic)

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Often found in aquariums or man-made ponds

Type: Emergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 2 feet
Mode of Infestation: Fragmentation

Purple Loosestrife (Exotic)

Lythrum salicaria, L. virgatum, L. alatum

Type: Emergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 10 feet tall
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal

Variable Milfoil (Exotic)

Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: Up to 16 feet tall
Mode of Infestation: Fragmentation

Water Chestnut (Exotic)

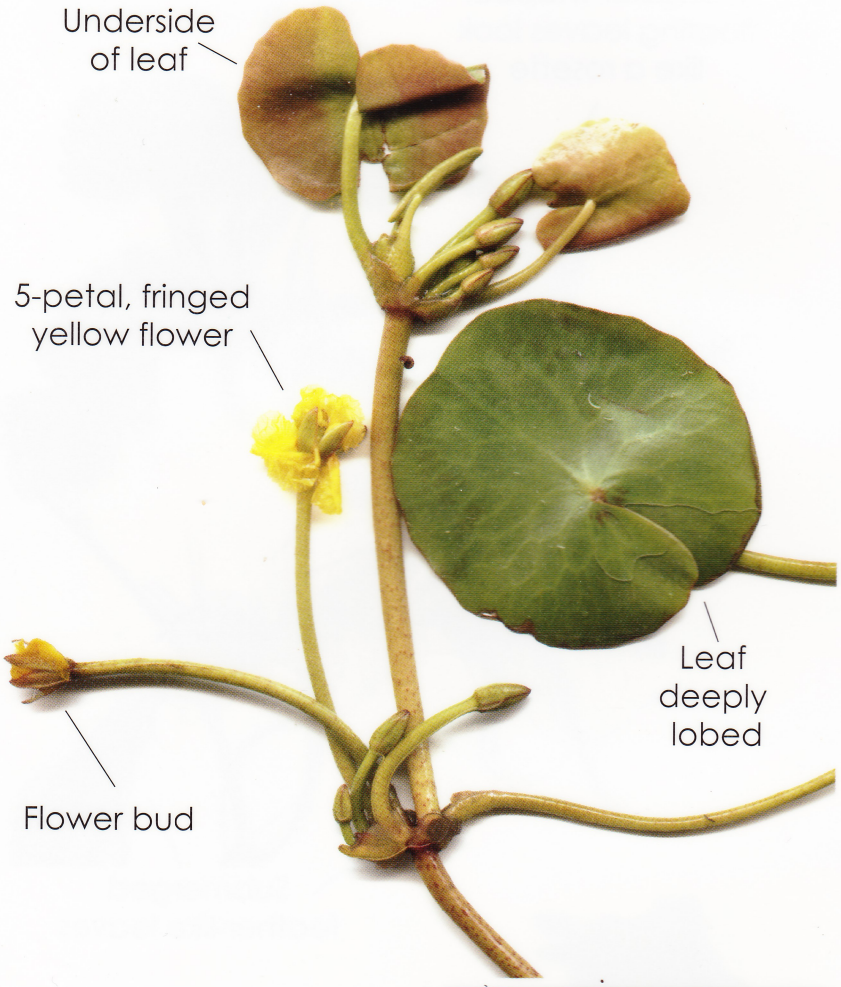
Trapa natans

Seed with sharp, barbed points
Scale: Actual size

Type: Floating-leaf
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 16 feet
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal

Yellow Floating Heart (Exotic)

Nymphoides peltata



Type: Floating-leaf
Scale: 3/4 actual size
Grows: In dense patches
Mode of Infestation: Seed dispersal

Bladderwort (Native)

Utricularia sp.

Bladders can be black, green or appear transparent

Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 2 feet

Coontail (Native)

Ceratophyllum demersum

Leaf is forked with teeth on one side; stiff (plastic like) and whorled around stem

Can develop compact winter buds

Free-floating underwater with no roots

Can be light or dark green, brownish or a combination

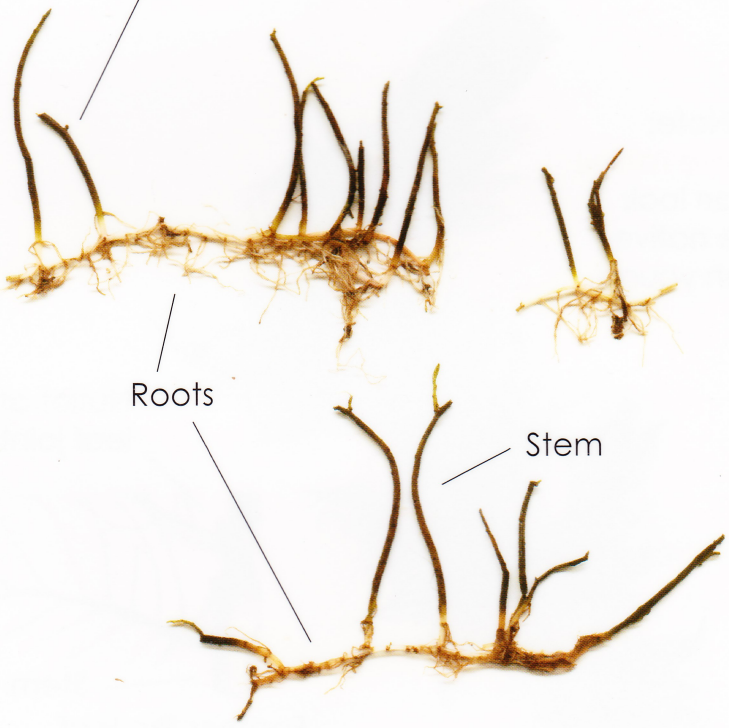
Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: 2 ft. in length

Dwarf Milfoil (Native)

Myriophyllum tenellum

Leaves appear as small bumps

Great stabilizer of sediment; grows in sandy or muddy bottoms



Roots

Stem

One of six native milfoil species

Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: Up to 6 inches tall

Milfoil (Native)

Myriophyllum humile

Humile and one other native milfoil can have fruits (nutlets) at the leaf joints. Other similar milfoils can be green with alternate or whorled leaves, have red or green stems or flowers on the tips.

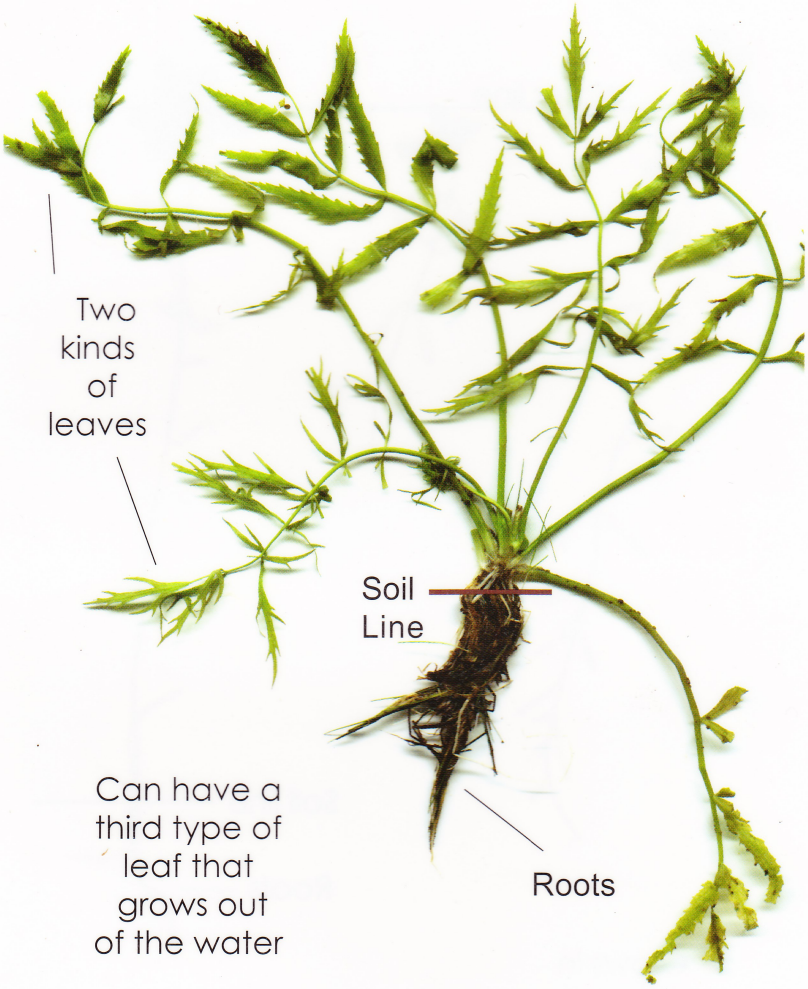
Note: Invasive milfioil can look like native when young.

Feather-like leaf
Scale: Twice actual size

Type: Submergent
Scale: Actual size
Grows: 1-2 feet tall

Water Parsnip (Native)

Sium suave



Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Up to 12 inches

Water Starwort (Native)

Callitriche sp.

Grows in still and slow-moving waters

Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Usually less than one foot tall

Waterweed (Native)

Elodea sp.

Note: This plant is a look-alike to Hydrilla (page 9) and Brazilian elodea (page 1); if you see any new plants like this, contact the NH Dept. of Environmental Services at 603/271-2248

Limp, long and narrow leaves; can be short and stiff

More densely packed leaves

3 leaves in a whorl around the stem

Flowers are minute, on a thin, thread-like stem emerging from plant

Type: Submergent
Scale: 1/2 actual size
Grows: Most common up to 2 feet or less, but can be taller

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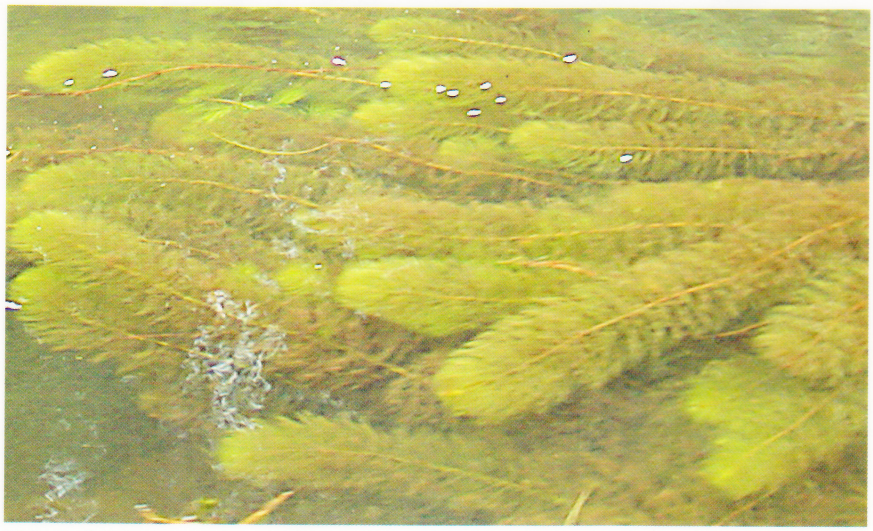
Variable Milfoil (Exotic) as seen through the surface of the water



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