

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is a submerged aquatic macrophyte that is originally native to parts of Europe and Asia. The plant was accidentally introduced in the 1950s by boats and birds. EWM forms thick mats of vegetation on the lake bottom, and it is a nuisance to boats, fishermen, swimmers, and more.

EWM's ability to rapidly reproduce causes its success in our waters. Stems as short as two inches can separate from the parent plant and re-establish a population. Parts of the plant cling to motors, boat trailers, and fishing equipment and can be spread to other waterbodies.

Chub Lake and Bear Lake are the only known lakes in Carlton County with EWM. EWM was discovered in 2009 by the DNR near the Chub boat landing and discovered in 2015 by the DNR in Bear Lake.

EWM is found in many lakes around Minneapolis and St. Paul and is spreading north. Nearby lakes with infestations include Mille Lacs Lake, Lake Superior, Sturgeon Lake (Pine Co.), Sand Lake (Pine Co.), and Horseshoe Lake (St. Louis Co.).



Identification

EWM typically has 12-24 leaflet pairs. Northern watermilfoil, a similar native plant, only has 5-9 leaflet pairs. When pulled out of the water, EWM will collapse around the stem, unlike Northern watermilfoil which usually remains rigid.

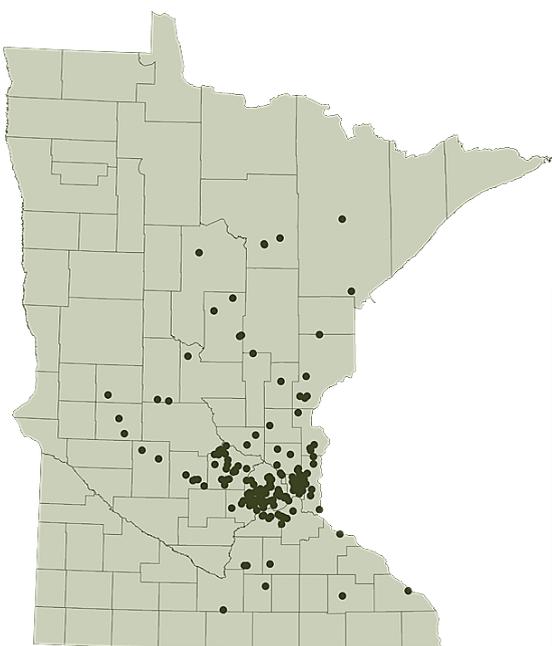


Impacts

- Reduces boat access
- Anoxia and odor from decomposition
- Decrease in biodiversity
- Slows water which decreases vital oxygen for fish and invertebrates
- Unpleasant for swimmers
- Can be too thick for fish habitation
- Increases nutrient loads and water temperature
- Reduces property values

Treatment

Elimination of EWM is nearly impossible after establishment. For treatment, herbicides are used in late summer to kill populations. Chub Lake experimented with a biological control: Milfoil Weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*). This native species' diet consists of milfoil. The Chub Lake Association introduced large numbers of these already present species in order to eat the stalks of the EWM and cause collapse of the colony.



Populations of EWM in Minnesota