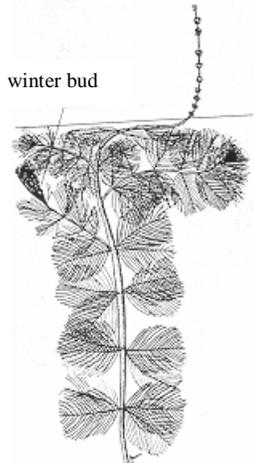


## HOW TO IDENTIFY EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Eurasian watermilfoil can be distinguished from other aquatic plants, including native milfoils, by the following features:

- a. The stem ranges from pale pink to red to reddish brown with feathery leaves. The growing tip is often bright red.
- b. The leaves are divided into leaflets usually numbering more than 12 per leaf. The ends of the leaves form a blunt tip, appearing snipped. Between 3 to 5 leaves grow in a whorled pattern around the stem.
- c. The flower is a spike above the water with red flowerlets.
- d. The leaves lose their rigidity and often collapse around the stem when the plant is taken **out** of the water.



### Eurasian watermilfoil

Find additional information at  
[www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)

## QUESTIONS ??

If you have any questions regarding the removal and disposal of aquatic plants, or possible rare and endangered plants found in wetlands, please contact the Agency.

To request a specific determination regarding the location and value rating of wetlands on property or to obtain advice regarding potential development activity in or adjacent to wetlands, please contact the Agency.

An individual determination on jurisdiction may be provided where unusual circumstances apply which do not fit within the above general guidance.

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**Adirondack**  
parkagency

## ADVICE ON HAND HARVESTING INVASIVE AND NUISANCE AQUATIC PLANTS

### INTRODUCTION

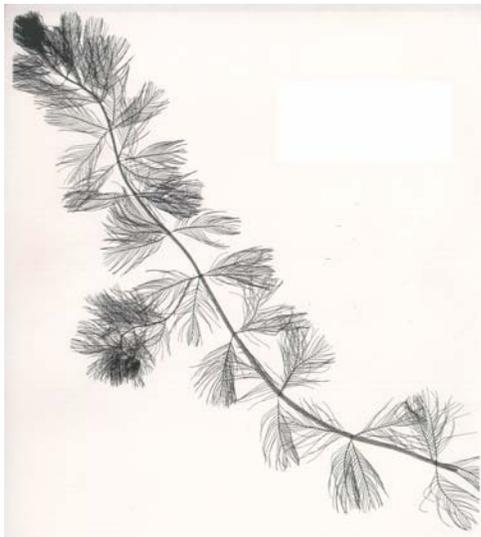
Small quantities of nuisance and invasive aquatic plants may be removed without requiring an Agency permit under appropriate conditions. These conditions are explained below.

This advice applies to floating and submerged leaved aquatic vegetation along shorelines in water 6.6 ft (2 m) or less. It is intended for use by individual landowners within the Adirondack Park and does not provide authority for large-scale aquatic plant control efforts.

## AQUATIC PLANTS

Nuisance aquatic plants include non-native and aggressive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and water chestnut. Native plants may be considered nuisance species where excessive growth impedes recreational use of the near-shore area and/or reasonable access to open water in areas such as beaches or docks. Eurasian watermilfoil is the primary focus of this brochure.

Indiscriminate removal of aquatic vegetation is discouraged, and every effort should be made to protect aquatic vegetation. Aquatic plant communities provide many ecological benefits such as food and habitat for waterfowl, fish, and other aquatic organisms. They also help maintain water quality by absorbing nutrients, providing oxygen, and reducing shoreline erosion. In addition to contributing to the overall health of the waterbody, such benefits enhance shoreline property values.



### Eurasian watermilfoil

Find additional information at  
[www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)

## HARVESTING CONDITIONS

**Agency wetland resource scientists advise that the hand harvest of aquatic plants by the adjacent upland landowner does not “substantially impair” the functions and values of the wetland provided the following conditions are met:**

- **The activity is conducted by hand in open water.**
- **The activity leaves at least 200 square feet of contiguous indigenous wetland in the immediate vicinity of the owner’s shoreline.**
- **The activity does not involve more than 1000 square feet of native freshwater wetland plants.**
- **The hand harvesting does not involve rare or endangered species.**
- **The activity is conducted only on the individual’s property, or with permission of the property owner.**
- **The activity involves no pesticides or any other form of aquatic plant management, including mechanical plant harvesting methods or matting.**
- **No dredging, removal of stumps or rocks, or other disturbance to the bed or banks of the water body is involved in the activity.**

## METHOD OF HAND HARVESTING

Plant removal is best done early in the growing season but is desirable anytime. All harvesters should be able to correctly identify the plants. It is crucial to have more than one person assisting the collection of Eurasian watermilfoil.

Infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil can form from a single plant fragment which takes root in the sediment. *Consequently, care should be taken to minimize fragmentation when hand harvesting this species.* The following method applies to all nuisance aquatic plants, but particularly to Eurasian watermilfoil.

The entire plant should be removed, including the root mass, and placed in a mesh bag. All resulting fragments should be collected with a fine mesh net. Removal of the root can be accomplished by reaching into the lake bottom below the main stem of the plant and carefully pulling the plant out. Minimize disturbance to the lake bottom. Check the lake bottom and water surface for fragments, especially when removing milfoil; and place all plant parts in fine mesh bags for disposal on shore. Failure to remove the entire plant will result in subsequent resprouting (roots) or reestablishment (fragments).

## DISPOSAL OF ALL AQUATIC PLANTS

The plant material should be placed in a boat or mesh bag. The mesh of the bag should be no more than 1/4 inch to prevent any loss of plant material.

Once the plants have been harvested, they should be properly disposed of on land, far enough away from the shore so that there is no chance that the material can wash back into the lake. A garden, flower bed, or compost pile would be suitable; in fact, aquatic plants are ideal for composting.