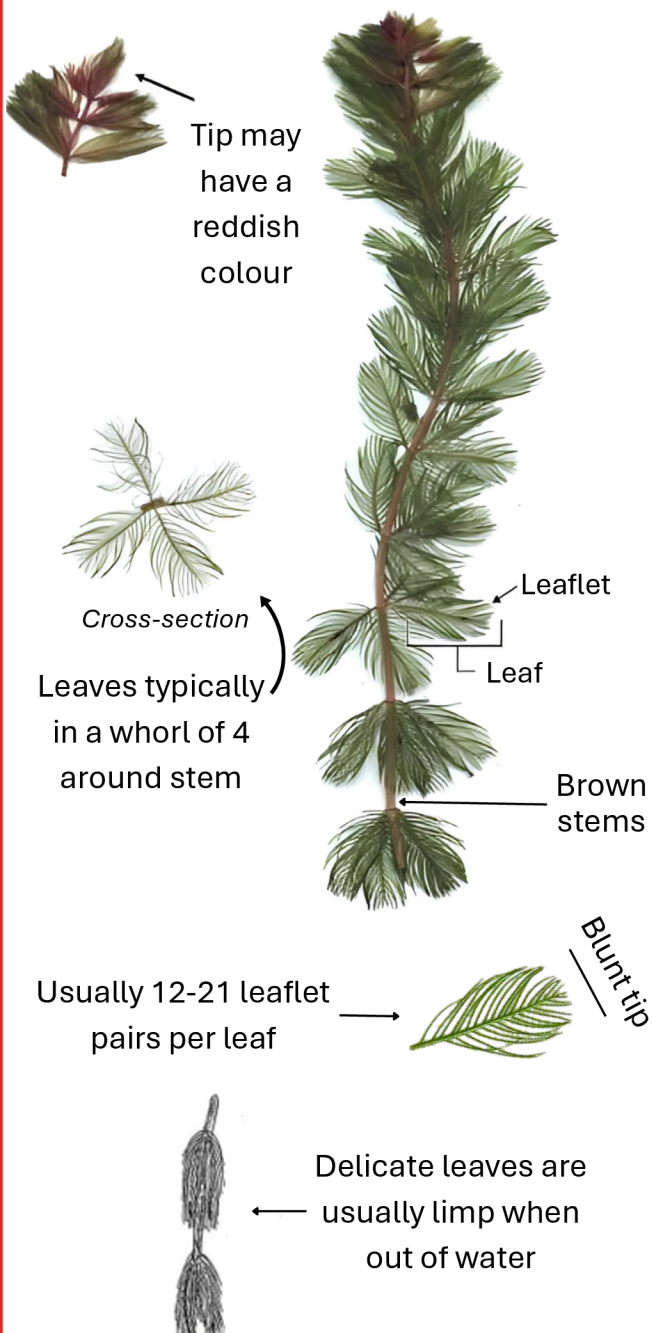


IS IT INVASIVE MILFOIL?

Invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil



Invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (aka invasive milfoil) has slender stems up to 2.5 m (8.2 ft) long. The plant is a perennial that grows under the water surface and has feather-like green leaves that circle the stem in groups of four or five. Invasive milfoil blooms in late July and early August and has orange/red flowers that are 4–6 mm long.

The OBWB has been responsible for invasive milfoil control in the Okanagan Basin since the 1970s.

After many years of experimenting with different methods, the OBWB now focuses on harvesting in the summer and rototilling the root system on shallow portions of the lake floor in the fall and winter.

What can I do?

Invasive milfoil is spread through fragmentation of plants and the release of aquarium plants and pets. To prevent its spread, avoid boating through infested areas, wash all recreational equipment, and never release or toss unwanted aquarium plants into the wild.



Why is Invasive Milfoil so bad?

- Thick patches can be dangerous to swimmers.
- Can clog and damage boat motors.
- Has less food value for waterfowl than native vegetation.
- Outcompetes native aquatic plants for habitat.
- Lower abundance and diversity of wildlife in dense milfoil beds.
- Impacts nutrient levels in lakes - leading to potential toxic algae blooms.
- Increases water temperatures, reduces oxygen, and impacts natural water flow due to its dense growing habits.

NATIVE OKANAGAN AQUATIC PLANTS

Native plants are generally beneficial to the ecosystem, and some might even be protected, so it's best to leave control up to those who know the difference. Here are some common native plants found in the Okanagan:



Coontail, hornwort, or rigid hornwort. While this plant looks a little like invasive Eurasian milfoil, Coontail is native to the Okanagan.



Floating leaf pondweed. Floating leaves are dark green or copper colored and submersed leaves are stiff, maintaining their almond shape underwater. Flower spikes emerge above the water.



Duckweeds. This plant has very small leaves that float on or just beneath the surface of still or slow-moving bodies of fresh water and wetlands.



Large leaf pondweed. Floating leaves are oval with many veins on long stalks and submersed leaves are folded and arched. Flower stalks emerge above the water.



Water lobelia. They have distinctive hollow, cylindrical leaves arranged in a rosette at its base, usually submerged underwater with a flowered stem that rises above the water in summer.



Sago pondweed or fennel pondweed. A fully submerged aquatic plant that does not have any floating or emerged leaves.

Learn more about milfoil and our work in the Okanagan.



obwb.ca/milfoil