

Plants

Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

• Eurasian watermilfoil is a submerged aquatic plant that can form thick mats in shallow areas of lakes and rivers.

• Mats of watermilfoil can displace native aquatic plants, interfere with swimming, and entangle boat propellers. Once established, the plant is nearly impossible to eradicate.

• Discovered in North America in the 1940s, Eurasian watermilfoil has invaded nearly every U.S. state and at least three Canadian provinces. Watermilfoil spreads by floating on water currents or clinging to boats, motors, trailers and fishing gear.



Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

• Frogbit is a free-floating aquatic herb that grows in marshes, ditches and swamps. Its miniature, heart-shaped leaves resemble those of water lilies.

• Common to the temperate regions of Eurasia, Frogbit is considered an invasive plant in Canada and was identified in wetlands near Lake St. Clair (U.S. side) in 2000.

• Frogbit forms dense mats on the surface of the water that can impede water traffic and reduce growth of native submersed aquatic plants.



Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) potential Great Lakes invasive species

• Hydrilla is a submerged aquatic plant that has invaded waterways in at least 19 U.S. states. If hydrilla spreads to Michigan, it could quickly overwhelm waterways, causing severe ecological and economic impacts.

• Hydrilla can grow up to an inch per day. It forms large, dense mats near the surface of the water that block recreational access, impede drainage and restrict water movement, causing sediment to accumulate.

• Thick mats of hydrilla block sunlight and can suffocate native plants and animals that live in the waters below.



[Learn more about Hydrilla](#)

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

- Purple loosestrife is a tall, flowering plant native to Europe that has invaded many North American wetlands and every watershed in Michigan.

- Thick stands of purple loosestrife block access to water, overtake native wetland plants and reduce food and habitat for wildlife.

- Management of purple loosestrife using biological control is beginning to reduce the invasive plant in some areas of Michigan.



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