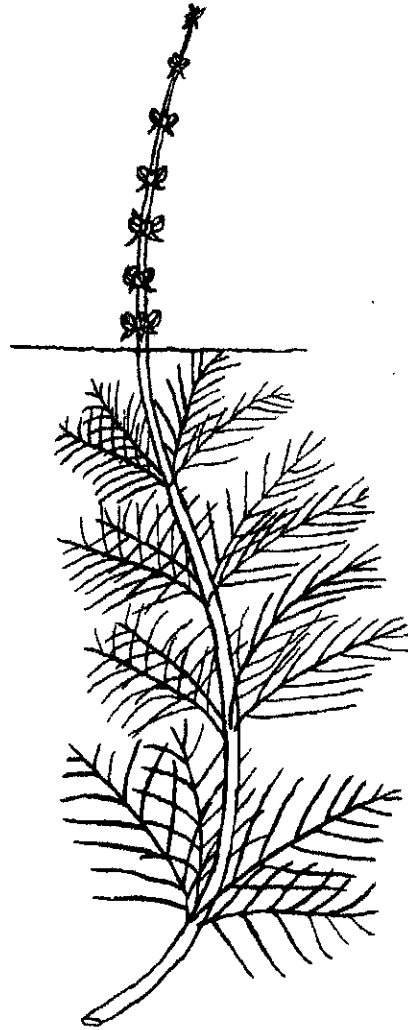
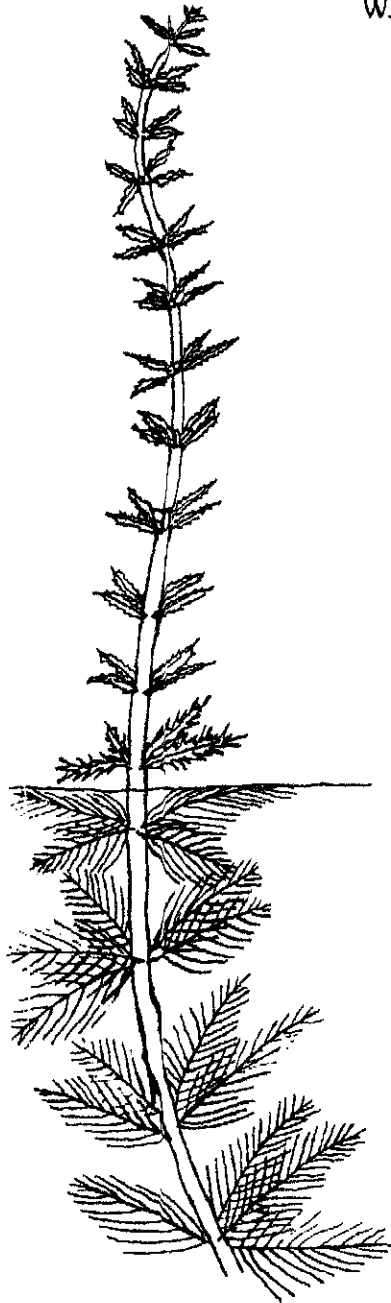


## WATER MILFOILS



## Water milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.)

*Common types:* Eurasian water milfoil, northern water milfoil, parrot feather, broad-leaf water milfoil.

*Location:* Fresh water to 20 feet deep.

*Description:* Grows entirely below water surface; grass-green color; may grow to 20 feet long; rooted stem with few branches; feathery leaves in whorls\* around stem; small pinkish-colored flowers may extend above water surface during summer.

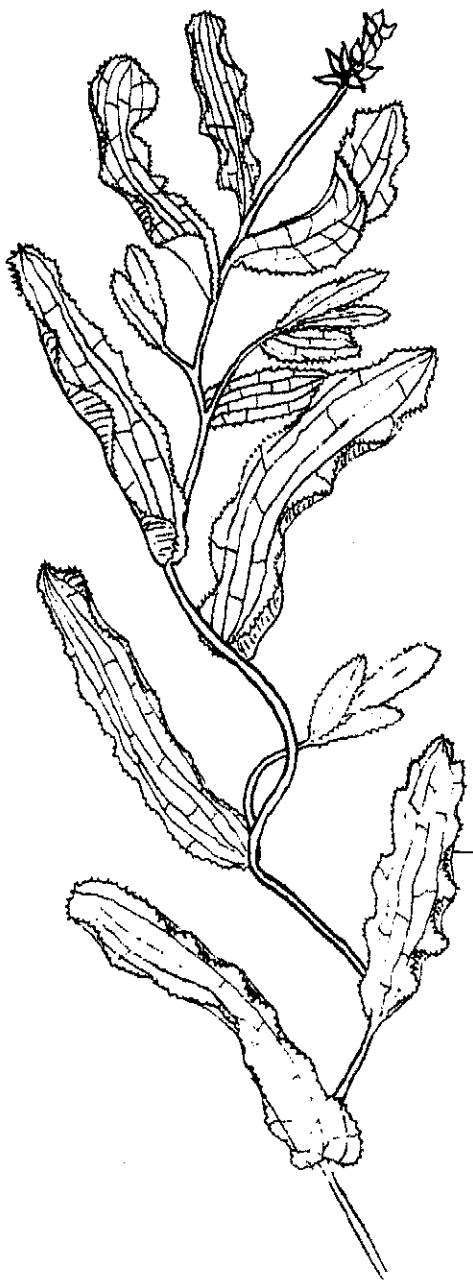
*Hints to identify:* Water milfoil is sometimes mistaken for coontail or chara. Look for water milfoil's flat, feather-like soft leaves.

*Value of plant:* Provides some cover for bluegills, crappies, perch, walleyes and muskellunge (most prefer broad-leaved pondweeds, however); supports insects used as fish food; waterfowl occasionally eat the fruit and foliage, although invasion by Eurasian water milfoil often destroys waterfowl habitat.

*Management strategy:* Eurasian water milfoil, not native to the United States, is a major water weed in many southern Wisconsin lakes. Hand pulling is a simple and effective control method for small problem areas. Harvesting, raking or screening the bottom also works well. Remove broken pieces of plants from the water — they can regenerate into new plants. Water milfoil can be effectively treated with chemicals early in the summer before the plants flower.

\*Whorl: leaves arranged in a circle around the stem.

CURLY-LEAVED PONDWEED  
*Potamogeton crispus*



**Curly-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)**

*Common name:* Curly cabbage

*Location:* Fresh water to 12 feet deep

*Description:* Grows below water surface; firmly rooted sturdy stems; thin leaves with wavy edges; leaves approximately one-half inch wide and 2 to 3 inches long; stems and leaves moderately stiff.

*Hints to identify:* Look for its unique curly-edged leaves; begins growing early in spring before most other pondweeds. No floating leaves.

*Value of plant:* Provides some cover for bluegills, largemouth bass, northern pike and muskellunge (most prefer broad-leaved pondweeds, however). Curly-leaved pondweed is not native to the United States. Being "exotic", this species of pondweed may cause problems due to excessive growth.

*Management strategy:* Problems with curly-leaved pondweed often remedy themselves. It grows early in spring and then dies back during midsummer. Physical removal methods such as hand pulling, raking, dragging and mechanical harvesting work well to control problem patches. Chemical treatment can be effective when physical removal doesn't work or isn't practical to use.