

PARROT-FEATHER WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum aquaticum



Cheng-Tao Lin-Wikipedia Commons



Parrotfeather Watermilfoil with Crosscut

Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest



André Karwath-Wikipedia Commons

IDENTIFICATION

LIFE CYCLE:

Aquatic perennial

LEAVES:

Has both an emergent and submerged leaf form. Leaves grow in whorls of 4-6 with 20 leaflets per leaf. Leaves appear to be feather-like. Leaves that are emergent are greener and more divided while submergent leaves are more reddish orange, less divided, and smaller.

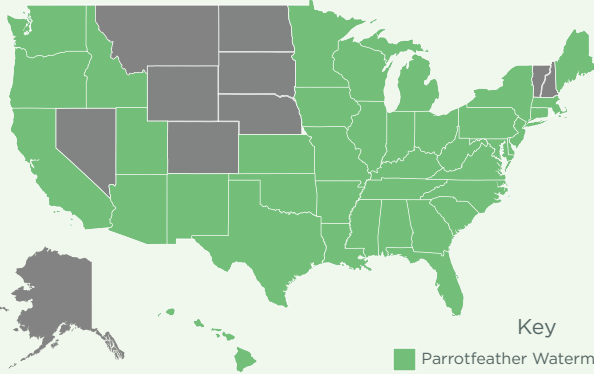
STEMS:

Stems are blue-green in color and can grow up to 5 feet long. Reproduction occurs vegetatively, when an entire plant or fragment breaks off and roots via nodes.

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

DISTRIBUTION Currently not found in Montana



Source:
USGS NAS; May 2023

Key
■ Parrotfeather Watermilfoil Invasive
■ Parrotfeather Watermilfoil Not Present

HABITAT:

Shallow, flowing water, but will establish in deeper water with good nutrients.

NATIVE TO:

The Amazon

PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Introduced through improper disposal of aquarium plants and as an aquatic ornamental species. Once introduced, it spreads through fragmentation. To prevent the spread dispose of all aquarium plants in secured plastic bags and clean, drain, and dry all equipment that has touched water before entering another body of water.

IMPACTS:

Rhizomes create dense mats that disrupts recreation, alters habitat, and can clog water pipes. Decreases water quality by contributing to nutrient loading and sedimentation and decreased oxygen.

IN MONTANA:

Not currently present in Montana

Sources:
US Forest Service; NOAA; CABI; Montana Field Guide



André Karwath-Wikipedia Commons



Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest



John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440



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