

# Montana's Usual Suspects

Look for these invasive submersed weeds when you're out in the field.

Plants on this side are currently found in some Montana water bodies. Send any suspect samples to report possible new infestations.

## Eurasian watermilfoil



- Grows thick mats in waters less than 25 deep
- Typically 4, but sometimes 3-5 feathery leaves, form a whorl around the stem.
- Each leaf has 12 or more pairs of leaflets.
- Milfoil stems branch several times near the water surface.
- Erect stalks emerge above water with small reddish flowers.

## Flowering rush



- Flowers grow in umbrella shaped clusters and each individual flower has 3 whitish pink petals.
- Green stems resemble bulrushes but are triangular in cross section.
- Leaf tips may be spirally twisted.
- Along shores, has erect leaves and grows to about 3 feet in height.
- Forms an extensive root system that can break into new plants if disturbed.

## Curlyleaf pondweed



- Forms dense mats which interfere with recreation and limit the growth of native aquatic plants.
- Leaves are alternate with crinkled leaves that are finely toothed.
- Leaves do not have a stems.
- Yellowish flower spikes often stick up above the water surface during spring

Plants on this side are NOT IN MONTANA. Send any suspect samples to report a possible infestations.

## Hydrilla



- Spreads by fragmentation and via transport on boats, motors, trailers, fishing nets, and other gear.
- Grows thick mats especially in shallow water.
- Difficult to identify, sometimes confused with elodea or egeria.
- Sharply toothed leaves in whorls of 4-8 (usually 5).
- Sometimes possess small teeth along underside of leaf midrib.

## Egeria



- Similar to hydrilla. Undersides of the leaf midribs are smooth and without teeth unlike those of hydrilla.
- They reach 6 feet in length and are freely branching
- Finely toothed leaves occur in whorls of 3-6 (usually 4)
- Flowers have 3 white petals and 3 green sepals.
- Flowers appear at water surface on long stalks, showy flowers petals are 1/3 inch long.



## Parrotfeather



- Bright green fir-tree-like; emergent leaves and stems
- Leaflets arranged in whorls (4-6) around the stem
- Leaflets with feather-like leaf arrangement
- Although closely related, Eurasian watermilfoil doesn't have emergent leaves.

