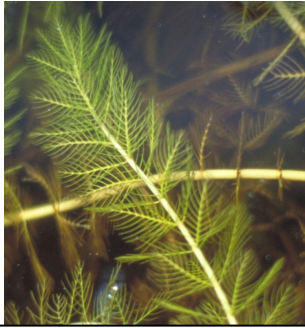


AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN



Eurasian Water-Milfoil
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- 4 leaves in a whorl around stem are grayish-green
- 14+ leaflet pairs per leaf
- Leaves are limp out of water
- Stems are usually pale pink to reddish brown
- Flowers late July – early August
- Aggressive, and will displace native aquatic vegetation in a couple of years
- Form thick underwater stands and dense mats on water surfaces
- Negatively impacts fish and wildlife

- Leaves on branched stems are whorled, bright green and feather-like
- 10-36 pairs of fine segments per leaf
- Flowers in spring and sometimes fall
- Forms dense mats over large areas
- Shades out other organisms
- Clogs waterways and blocks fish passage
- Restricts recreational activities



Parrotfeather
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

ALERT:
NOT YET IN BC



Hydrilla
(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

- 3-8 leaves in a whorl
- Leaves 8-20 mm long
- Prominent, sharp teeth on leaf edges
- Sometimes with prickles along midline of lower leaf surface
- Dense mats interfere with recreation
- Displaces native aquatic organisms and negatively affects fish and wildlife
- Clogs intake pumps and filters

- Introduced by contaminated recreational gear
- Freshwater algae found in flowing waters
- Individual cells are microscopic and attach to surfaces by secreting a branching stalk that looks slimy but feels like wet cotton wool
- Forms thick mat (up to 3 cm) on creek/river beds
- Mats can clog water intake pipes and stick to boats and equipment
- The mats look like sewage sludge or toilet paper, their presence negatively impacts recreational water usage
- Negatively impacts fish habitat

Didymo
“Rock Snot”
(*Didymosphenia geminata*)





Flowering Rush
(*Butomus umbellatus*)

- On BC Noxious Weed List
- Escaped pond ornamental
- Leaves floating or submersed up to 2.7 m long, spiralling near the tip
- Cross-section of leaf is triangular in shape
- Flowers during summer and fall
- Displaces native vegetation
- Obstructs recreational uses of water

- 4-6 leaves in whorl around stem
- Leaves 12-40 mm long
- Flowers during summer and fall
- Will choke out everything else that grows in water (including milfoil)
- Forms a dense mat on water surface
- Restricts water movement and impedes fish migration
- Interferes with recreational uses



Brazilian Elodea
(*Egeria densa*)

PREVENTION

The most effective way to ensure our lakes do not become infested with invasive plants is by prevention. Here are some recommendations to prevent invasive plants from over-taking our waters:

- **CLEAN** off any visible plants, mud or other debris from all equipment that enters the water (boats, trailers, waders, scuba gear, etc)
- **DRAIN** all water sources from your bilge, ballast, live well and bait buckets onto dry land
- **DRY** all equipment for 5 days in the sun before entering another water body. If this is not an option, then pressure wash all equipment with hot water and towel dry
- **NEVER** transport live fish between water ways (it's illegal) and **NEVER** empty aquarium fish or plants into the wild
- **REPORT** any sightings of these species to oasiss@shaw.ca or at www.oasiss.ca

For further information on invasive plants in the Okanagan-Similkameen or to REPORT a sighting of an alert species: www.oasiss.ca

To learn more about Eurasian Water-Milfoil:
www.obwb.ca



Information compiled by: Adele Brick and Lisa Scott
Sources: Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species from Ministry of Natural Resources – Ontario; and others
Financial support provided by: Okanagan Basin Water Board
Photo credit: Alison Fox – University of Florida; Les Mehrhoff www.discoverlife.org; Mark Hoddel – Center for Invasive Species Research; Malcolm Storey – www.discoverlife.org

July 2012
Updated June 2020



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

OKANAGAN
waterwise
One valley. One water.