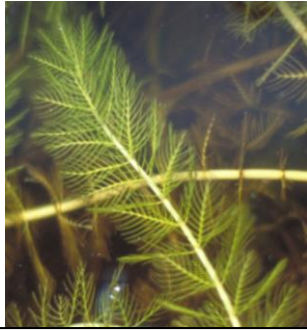


AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN



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*)



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*)

ALERT:
NOT YET IN BC

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
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