



VARIABLE-LEAF WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum heterophyllum
Origin: Eastern Asia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

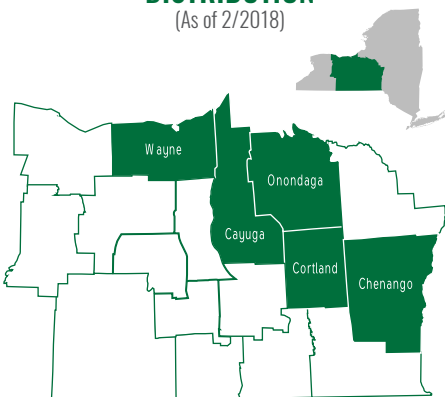
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

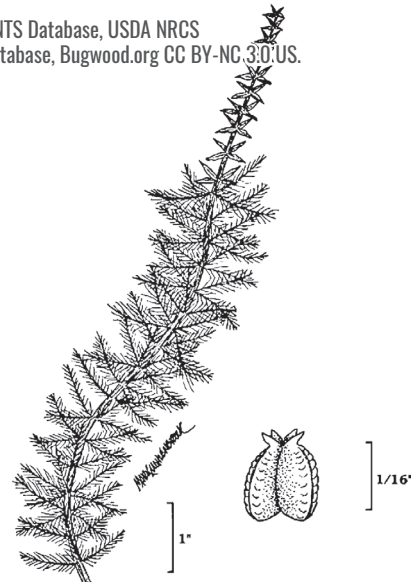
Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org



Variable-leaf watermilfoil is an invasive, rooted aquatic plant with both submerged and emergent leaves. Submerged leaves are feather-like, with 5-14 pairs of green to reddish leaflets, and are arranged in whorls of 4-6 around red-brown stems. Emergent parts can grow to 15-20 cm above the water; leaves are highly variable bracts that are stiff, usually toothed, and may reach 2.5 cm in length. Flowers grow in spikes 7-15 cm tall in late June to August.

HABITAT

Variable-leaf watermilfoil grows in lakes, ponds, and pools in streams up to depths of about 1.8 m, occasionally deeper. This species prefers clear and neutral to slightly acidic water.

THREAT

Variable-leaf watermilfoil is an aggressive plant competitor that can outcompete and displace native vegetation, which can alter habitats for fish, waterfowl, and aquatic organisms. Dense growth inhibits recreational activities including boating, fishing, and swimming.

MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body. Small infestations can be managed using a variety of manual or mechanical control options, but fragments may spread the infestation so care must be taken to remove all parts of the plant. Plants should be disposed of away from the water. Some herbicides have also been effective.

REFERENCE - Rook, Earl. 2002. Two Leaf Milfoil. <http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/aquatics/myriophyllumhet.html>. June 12, 2017.
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