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BRITTLE WATERNYMPH, BRITTLE NAIAD

Najas minor
Origin: Eurasia & Northern Africa.

Brittle waternymph is an annual submersed aquatic plant, that is compact but bushy in appearance with thin, branching stems that can grow up to 1.5 m in length. Stems and roots can fragment easily. The leaves are oppositly arranged, stiff, curled, and pointed, with visible spines along the margins. The seeds, which grow along the stem, are slightly recurved, purplish in color, and have tiny, rectangular pits arranged in longitudinal rows. Care must be taken when identifying this species, as it is similar in appearance to native waternymph species.

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

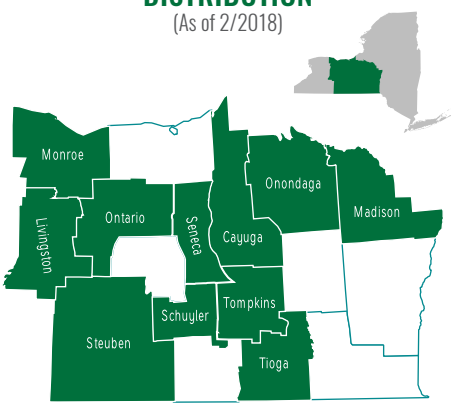
Moderate

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



HABITAT

Brittle waternymph inhabits still or slow-moving waterbodies. This species is capable of growing in depths up to 4 m, and is more tolerant of turbidity and high-nutrient conditions than native species of the same genus.

THREAT

Brittle waternymph can form dense stands in shallow water that inhibit the growth of native aquatic macrophytes. This can also result in unfavorable habitat for fish and waterfowl. Dense infestations will also hinder swimming, fishing, boating, and other forms of recreation.

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 may be removed manually or mechanically to reduce biomass. However, since this plant spreads very easily, it is crucial to avoid fragmentation during removal. Herbicides can be effective in controlling larger infestations.

REFERENCE - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/7/2017].

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