

Plant Characteristics	Eurasian watermilfoil (exotic) ( <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> )	Northern watermilfoil (native) ( <i>Myriophyllum exalbescens</i> )	Parrotfeather (exotic) ( <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> )	Variable watermilfoil ( <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> ) (exotic)
<b>Number of Pairs of Leaflets:</b>	Pairs of 12–20	Pairs of 10 or less	Pairs of 20-30	Pairs of 5-14
<b>Submerged Leaves...</b>	Submerged leaves 0.5-2.0 inches long (longer than wide)	Leaves 0.4-1 inches long, 0.6-1.4 wide (wider than long)	0.6-1.4 inches long (longer than wide)	0.8-2 inches long and 0.75-1.5 in. wide (longer than wide)
<b>Emergent Leaves...</b>	None	None	0.8-2 inches long with 16-18 leaflets per leaf	0.2-1.2 inches long and 0.06-0.2 in. wide (longer than wide)
<b>Leaf Whorls...</b>	3-5 leaves per whorl (typically 4)	3-5 leaves per whorl (typically 4)	5–6 leaves per whorl	4-6 leaves per whorl
<b>Leaf Stiffness...</b>	Leaves limp out of water	Leaves stiff out of water	Leaves stiff out of water	Emergent leaves stiff out of water
<b>Leaf Color...</b>	Olive green	Green	Blue green	Submerged-reddish brown, greenish brown Emerged-green
<b>Stem Color...</b>	Pick, peach, light green	White, light green	Green	Dark red, reddish-brown, reddish-green
<b>Flower Spike...</b>	Emerged	Emerged	Emerged	Emerged
<b>Flowering Times...</b>	June through September	July through September	April through July	June through September
<b>Fruits...</b>	Hard, segmented capsule	Hard, segmented capsule	Not known to fruit outside native range	Scabrous texture, segmented capsule

Sources:

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/SiteCollectionDocuments/DOW/WildlifeSpecies/AquaticNuisance/COANSInspactionHandbook2009.pdf>

<http://www.lakesingletary.org/Vegetation.php>

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/ww/Publications/RIDEM-Variable-leaf-milfoil.pdf>

