

Common Nuisance Plants (Upper Midwest Region)

Eurasian watermilfoil (Exotic)- Greyish-green and finely divided pairs of fine, thin leaflets about ½-2" long; leaflets give milfoil a feathery appearance that is a distinguishing feature of the plant. Arranged in whorls of 3-6 leaves around the stem. 12 or more pairs of leaflets. Large floating mats can prevent light penetration to native species and restrict recreational activities. ● ● ●

Curly-leaf pondweed (Exotic)- All submersed and alternate with no leaf stalks; oblong, still, translucent leaves have distinctly wavy edges with fine teeth and 3 main veins. CLP is dominant and invasive due to its tolerance for low light and low water temperatures. It also causes an increase in phosphorus concentrations, causing an increase in algae blooms. ● ● ● ●

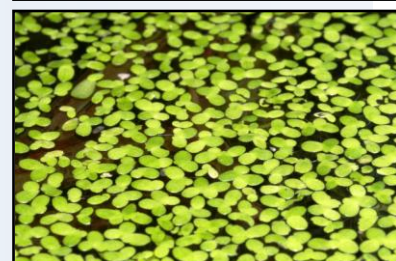
Duckweed- The individual leaf or frond of duckweed is oval or elliptic in shape, 1/10 to 1/8 inch long and less than 1/10 inch wide. Each frond has a small hair-like rootlet extending beneath it 1/8 to 1/4 inch in length. This small plant is sometimes mistaken for algae. ● ● ●

Watermeal (Wolffia)- Watermeals are the smallest seed-bearing plants in the world. Watermeal tends to grow in dense colonies in quiet water undisturbed by wave action. Watermeal resembles small grains or green cornmeal floating on the water surface; no roots are present. ●

Sago pondweed- Beneficial aquatic plant that can grow to nuisance levels. Leaves are sharp, thin, and resemble a pine needle. Reddish seeds that resemble beads on a string rise to the water surface in mid-summer. Sago pondweed produces a crop of seeds and tubers that are valued by waterfowl. Juvenile fish and invertebrates utilize sago pondweed for cover. ● ● ● ●

Chara- Also known as muskgrass is a beneficial aquatic alga that can grow to nuisance levels. It is a complex alga that resembles a higher plant. It's identified by its pungent odor and whorls of toothed branched leaves. Chara serves an important role in stabilizing bottom sediment, tying up nutrients in the water column, and aiding with water clarity. ● ●

Herbicide Key: ● Reward® ● Aquathol® ● Sonar® A.S.
 ● Navigate® ● Clipper™ ● Cutrine® Granular



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Shoreline Vegetation To Look For

Narrow-Leaf Cattail (Exotic)- Numerous tiny flowers densely packed into a cylindrical spike at end of stem, divided into upper section of yellow, male flowers and lower brown, sausage-shaped section of female flowers. Gap between male and female sections is about 0.5-4" in narrow-leaved cattail. ● ●



Common Cattail (Native)- Common (broad-leaved) cattail generally does not have a gap between male and female sections of the inflorescence and differs in several often tiny features of the leaves, flowers, and fruits. ● ●



Cottonwood (Native)- Large tree, 50' to 80' tall, diameter 36" to over 48". Leaf-Simple, alternate on stem, 3" to 5" long, nearly as wide; broadly ovate or triangular, pointed, square at base, finely toothed or wavy on edges; covered with soft white hairs on underside. ● ● ●



Willow (Multiple Species)- leaves are arranged alternately along the stem and lanceolate, meaning they are long and pointed at each end. The margins of the leaves of willows are most often serrulate or fine-toothed. In general willow leaves are yellow to green on top and white underneath. The tops of the leaves often have a shiny appearance to them. Once again there are variations in color. ● ● ●



Phragmites (Invasive)- Perennial wetland grass that grows 3-20' tall with dull, very slightly ridged, stiff, and hollow stems. Create dense clones where canes remain visible in winter. ● ●



Purple Loosestrife (Exotic)- Wetland perennial, 3'-7' tall, with up to 50 stems topped with purple flower spikes. One main leader stem, but many side branches often make the plant look bushy. ● ●



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