

STARRY STONEWORT

Nitellopsis obtusa

Characeae, the green algae family

Category: EDRR

Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Starry Stonewort is a submerged annual macro-algae that is known to form large, dense mats within waterbodies.
- These mats reduce the diversity of other aquatic plants, block the movement of water and wildlife, and impede spawning activities.
- Damage caused by this plant can also negatively impact recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

Description

- Submerged annual macro-algae.
- Whorls of 4-6 thin, bright green branchlets are arranged around the stem and vary in length.
- White, star-shaped bulbils the size of a grain of rice are attached to the base of the plant via clear threads
- Small, orange spheres may be seen at the tips of the branchlets.
- Clear filaments anchor the algae to the sediment.

Introduction and Movement

- Starry Stonewort is native to Eurasia, and was unintentionally introduced via contaminated ballast water.
- It inhabits slow moving waters such as lakes, reservoirs, ponds, rivers, and can easily spread through fragmentation and distribution by recreational activities and wildlife.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Starry Stonewort and report any sightings.
- Always research aquarium plants before purchasing.
- Never release aquarium contents or water garden species into surface waters and dispose of unwanted vegetation by burning, composting, or drying out completely.
- When boating, make sure to clean off any vegetative materials when leaving each waterbody, and before launching into another.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW**

DON'T LET IT LOOSE & CLEAN > DRAIN > DRY

Sources

- Michigan Invasive Species: https://michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71240_73848-368746--,00.html
- Minnesota DNR: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/starrystonewort/index.html>
- Wisconsin DNR: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/StarryStonewort.html>



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

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DISTRIBUTION MAP

