

VARIABLE-LEAF-MILFOIL

Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Haloragaceae, the watermilfoil family

Category: EDRR

Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Variable-leaf-milfoil is a submerged aquatic plant that is known to form large, dense mats within waterbodies.
- These mats prevent waterflow and reduce the availability of sunlight and oxygen, disrupting aquatic habitats and displacing native species.
- Damage caused by this plant can also negatively impact recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

Description

- Submerged/emergent aquatic perennial.
- Stems are thick and reddish.
- Leaves are arranged in whorls of 4-6 with 8-18 leaf segments.
- Flowers are reddish with 4 petals and emerge in spikes up to 6" above water surface.
- Roots are fibrous with rhizomes.

Introduction and Movement

- Variable-leaf-milfoil is native to Southeast United States and was likely introduced by escaping cultivation.
- It inhabits slow moving waters such as lakes, ponds, rivers, and swamps and can easily spread through fragmentation and distribution by recreational activities and wildlife.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Variable-leaf-milfoil 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

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/34940>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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

VARIABLE-LEAF -MILFOIL DISTRIBUTION MAP



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