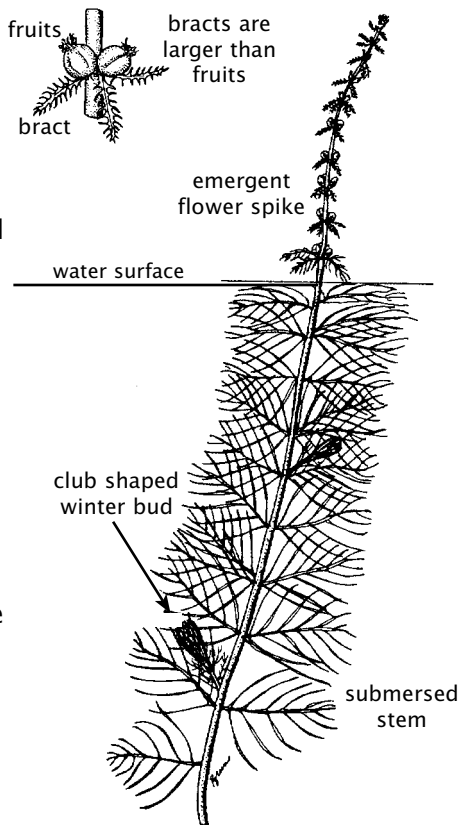


WHORLED WATER-MILFOIL COMB WATER-MILFOIL *Myriophyllum verticillatum*

Description: Whorled water-milfoil has two distinct leaf types: submersed leaves and emergent leaves (called bracts). The submersed leaves are finely feather-divided, with 5 to 14 thread-like leaflet pairs per leaf. Whorls of 4 or 5 leaves are spaced (up to 1 cm apart) along the stem. Whorled milfoil produces flowers and fruits above or at the water's surface on erect (4 to 15 cm) spikes. The bracts occurring on the emergent spike are pinnately lobed (like a double-sided comb). Even when fully developed, the flowers are very small. (A hand lens may be needed to study this feature.) The bracts are typically two or more times longer than the flowers and fruits. Toward the end of the growing season, elongated club-shaped winter buds (or turions), comprised of small stiff leaves, are formed along the submersed stems.



Whorled water-milfoil in flower

Look Alikes: The native milfoil that whorled water-milfoil most closely resembles is northern water-milfoil. Whorled milfoil may also be confused with two of the invasive milfoils: variable water-milfoil and Eurasian water-milfoil. Whorled water-milfoil is the closest native look alike to variable water-milfoil.



Club-shaped winter buds