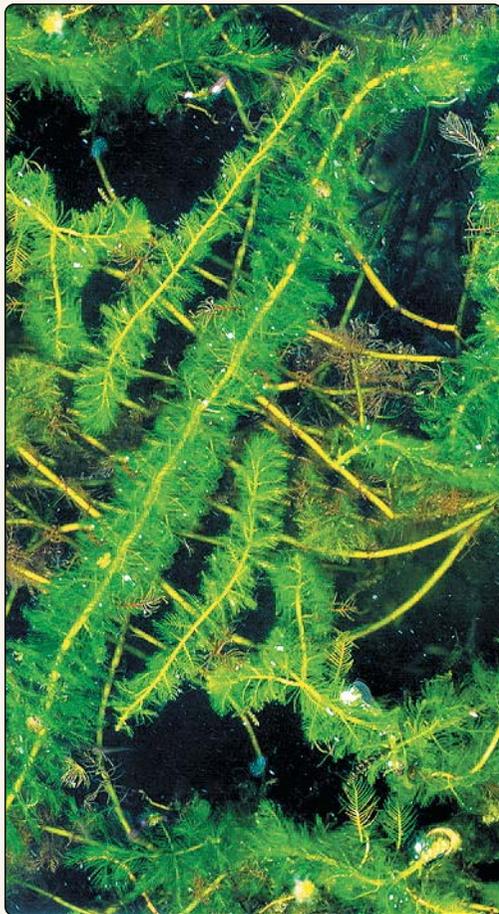


Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Submerged
Aquatic Plant



Branches have a feathery appearance

Eurasian watermilfoil is a submerged herbaceous freshwater aquatic plant. It can grow to 11 m tall, with long, slender, branching stems extending up to the water surface and forming dense mats. These stems produce finely divided greyish-green leaves occurring in whorls of 3-4 giving the branches a feathery appearance. Small yellow, four-parted flowers project above the water and fruit forms a hard, segmented capsule containing 4 seeds.

While the seeds are viable, most spread comes from fragmented stems transported by contaminated machinery, boats and trailers or nets.

This plant is not yet known in New Zealand. There are native milfoils which are superficially similar to Eurasian milfoil. Any possible sightings should be reported to your Regional Council immediately.