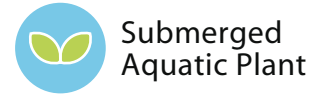


## Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)



*Blue-green foliage*

Parrot's feather is a perennial freshwater plant that forms dense sprawling mats in still or slow-flowing water. It also grows on damp ground like mud banks and in wetlands.

Parrot's feather has light green or reddish stems that are up to 2 m long in standing water or up to 4 m long in moving water producing fibrous roots at each node along these. The plant has blue-green foliage, with leaves arranged in whorls of 5 - 6, subdivided into many feathery leaflets. Plants in flowing water may produce submerged leaves which are more finely divided and either pink or pale green in colour. Flowers are small and inconspicuous and do not produce seeds in this country.

This plant is spread by stem fragments carried by water, contaminated drainage machinery or deliberate plantings.

Once established parrot's feather is difficult to manage, with most methods only giving temporary control. It is best to contact your Regional Council for assistance.

**Parrot's feather can be confused with the endangered native milfoil *Myriophyllum robustum*. This species usually has purple-green leaves which are pointed at the tips whereas parrot's feather is pale blue-green with rounded leaf tips.**