

# Le Sueur County Environmental Services

## NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2022

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**Email:** [environmentalservices@co.le-sueur.mn.us](mailto:environmentalservices@co.le-sueur.mn.us)



# Le Sueur County Shoreline Residents – Help Protect Our Lakes

## ***Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!***

Le Sueur County would like to continue its efforts, in 2022 and 2023, with increasing awareness about the 21-day dry rule for water related equipment. The County will be partnering with Lake Associations to communicate with residents to dry their used docks, rafts, lifts, and associated equipment for 21 days before moving to a different body of water.

***Did you know?*** Drying your equipment for 21 days is required by law before you move it to or from a different lake (MN State Statute 84D.10 Subd. 4).



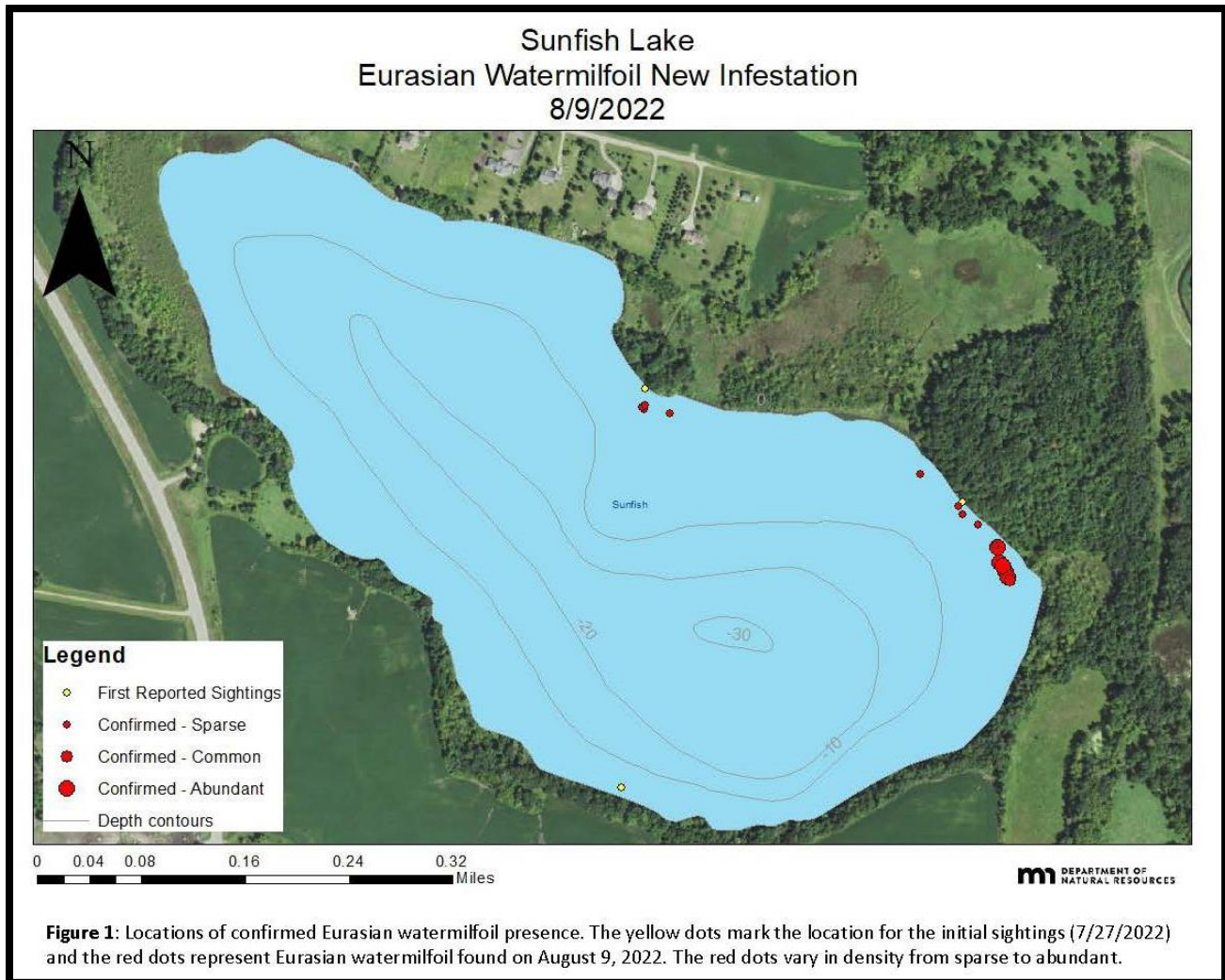
**Figure 1. Water Related Equipment: Boat Lifts & Docks**

### **We are looking for participants with this program!**

- Are you interested in being more involved with your community when it comes to preventing and limiting the spread of AIS?
- Would you like to attend trainings and/or demonstrations to learn how to properly clean and dry your docks, rafts, lifts, and other associated equipment?
- Are you planning on moving, buying, or selling water related equipment to or from a different lake?

If you answered yes to any of the questions, then this program is for you! In order to participate, please fill out the commitment and participation form. Please contact your Lake Association, contact Holly Kalbus (507-357-8540, email address located below), or visit the Le Sueur County AIS page ([Le Sueur County Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Outreach Page](#)) to access the form. Once you have filled out the form it can either be emailed to [hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us](mailto:hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us) or mailed to Le Sueur County Environmental Services, Holly Kalbus, 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.

# Sunfish Lake New Infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil



## Figure 2. Observed Sightings of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Sunfish Lake.

*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*

On July 27, 2022 a DNR staff member reported suspected Eurasian Watermilfoil at three different locations on Sunfish Lake; congregated on the eastern half. Additional DNR staff completed an inspection on August 9, 2022 and confirmed Eurasian Watermilfoil was present in Sunfish Lake. The Eurasian Watermilfoil that is present in Sunfish Lake is growing in sparse patches and mixed with native vegetation. There is one area of dense growth.

Le Sueur County worked with landowners and the Minnesota DNR and was able to obtain a permit to treat the Eurasian Watermilfoil. Le Sueur County hired a contractor to perform a chemical treatment on September 19, 2022. The chemical used for treatment was 2,4D. The hope is that we observed and treated the infestation soon enough where it won't become established. We will follow up in the spring of 2023 to see if treatment efforts worked.



**Figure 3. Eurasian Watermilfoil in Sunfish Lake.**

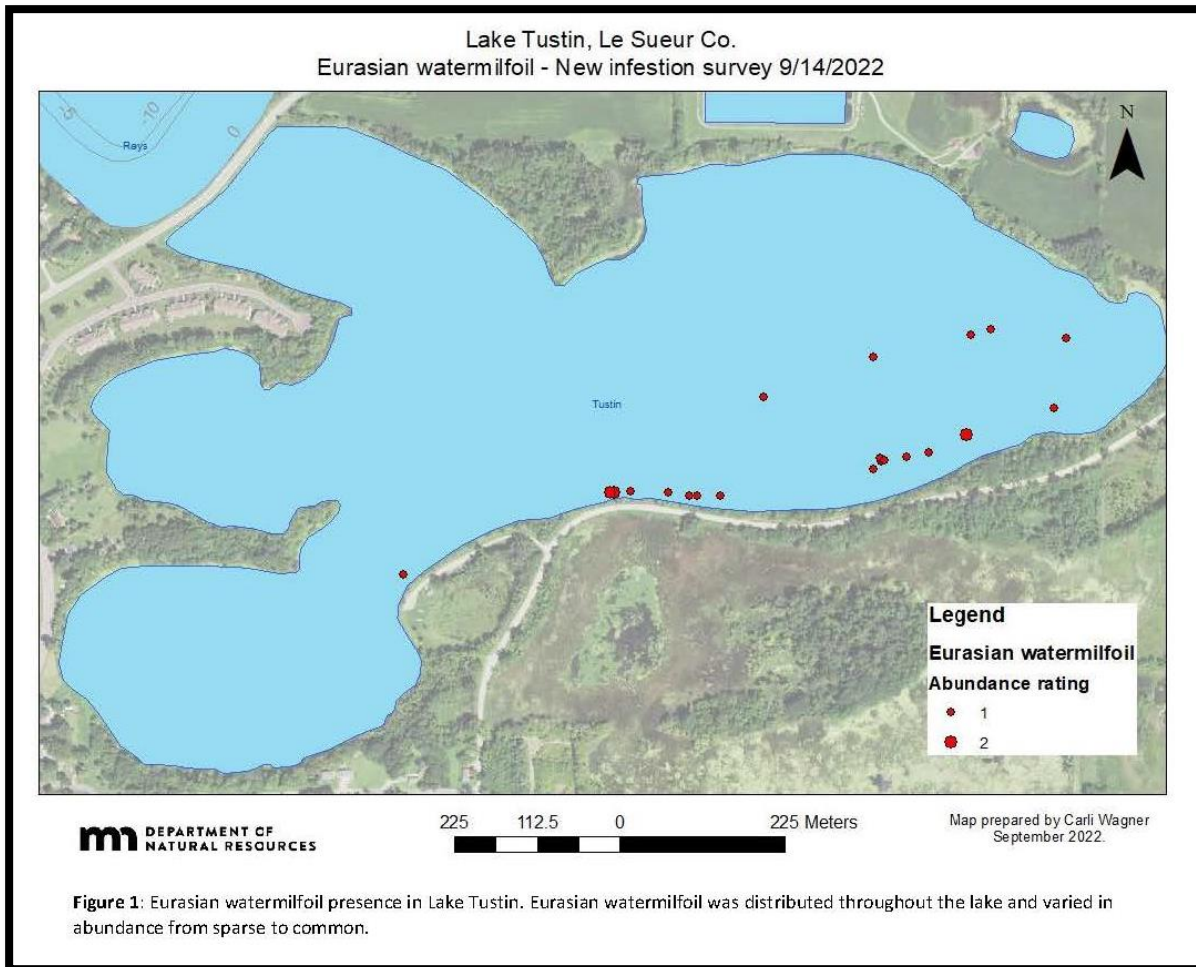
*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*



**Figure 4. Small Patch of Eurasian Watermilfoil.**

*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*

# Tustin Lake New Infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil



**Figure 5. Observed Sightings of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Tustin Lake.**

*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*

On August 30, 2022 a DNR staff member reported suspected Eurasian Watermilfoil during a survey. Additional DNR staff completed an inspection on September 15, 2022 and confirmed Eurasian Watermilfoil was present in Tustin Lake. The Eurasian Watermilfoil that is present in Tustin Lake is growing in sparse to common patches and found throughout the lake. Lake Tustin is hydrologically connected with Lake Francis and Rays Lake which are currently infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. At this time, Le Sueur County is spreading awareness of the new infestation. There is no fall treatment planned due to poor water quality, but treatment may be an option next year.



**Figure 6. Small Patch of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Tustin Lake.**

*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*



**Figure 7. Eurasian Watermilfoil in Tustin Lake found by DNR Staff.**

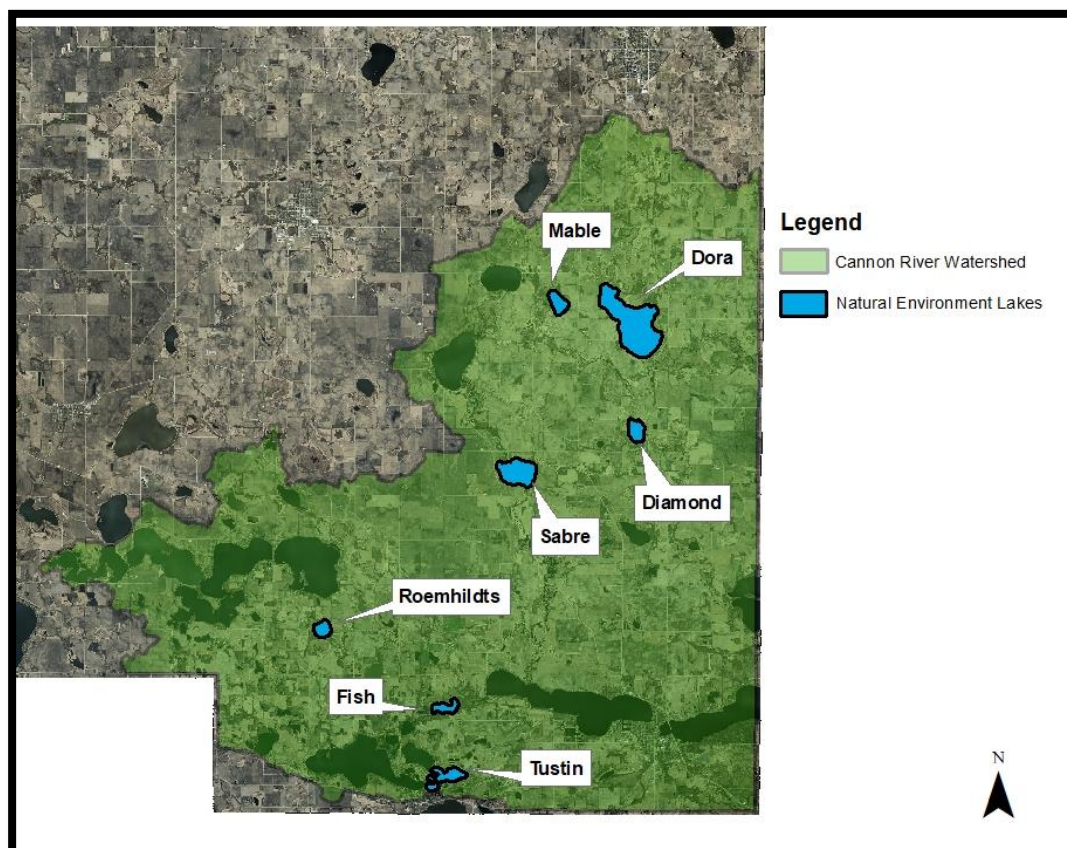
*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*

# Shoreline Surveys Natural Environment Lakes in the Cannon River Watershed

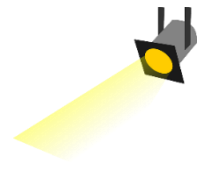
The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (CRWJPO), consisting of Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Cannon River Watershed, completed a Watershed Plan in 2020. The Watershed Plan has many action items to aid in improving water quality. One such action item is to complete shoreline surveys on 10 lakes within the Cannon River Watershed.

Fish, Roemhildts, Diamond, Mable, Dora, Sabre, and Tustin are 7 of the 10 lakes identified for the survey. All of these lakes are considered Natural Environment Lakes; usually are small and often shallow with limited abilities for integrating the impacts of development and recreational use. Often they will have lands adjacent to them that have significant limitations on development due to factors such as high water tables, exposed bedrock, and unsuitable soils (MN State Statute 6120.2500).

Staff will use a drone to complete the survey work this fall; in early to mid-October. Results of the survey will show the general health of the shoreline and any potential locations for improvement projects such as shoreline restorations, native buffers, and so forth.



**Figure 8. Map of Natural Environment Lakes.**



# Water Resource Spotlight

## This week we are spotlighting Thomas Lake!

Thomas Lake is located within the Village of Saint Thomas; which is northeast of the City of Le Sueur and southeast of the City of Henderson. The lake has a surface area of roughly 69.21 acres. Thomas Lake’s maximum depth is unknown. The landscape around the lake is predominately agriculture, wetlands, or woods. There is some development as well, especially on the northeast side. Additionally, there is a DNR carry in access that is located on the southeast side of the lake, and a 320-acre wildlife management area that is located directly around and west of Thomas Lake.

Thomas Lake is located within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. Currently, there is very little water quality data available, but it appears to be meeting state water quality standards. Since Thomas Lake has good water quality, the main management goal should be protection. Thomas Lake and the wildlife management area are very popular for recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.



**Figure 9. East Side of Thomas Lake**



**Figure 10. Thomas Lake Wildlife Management Area; West of Thomas Lake**



# Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

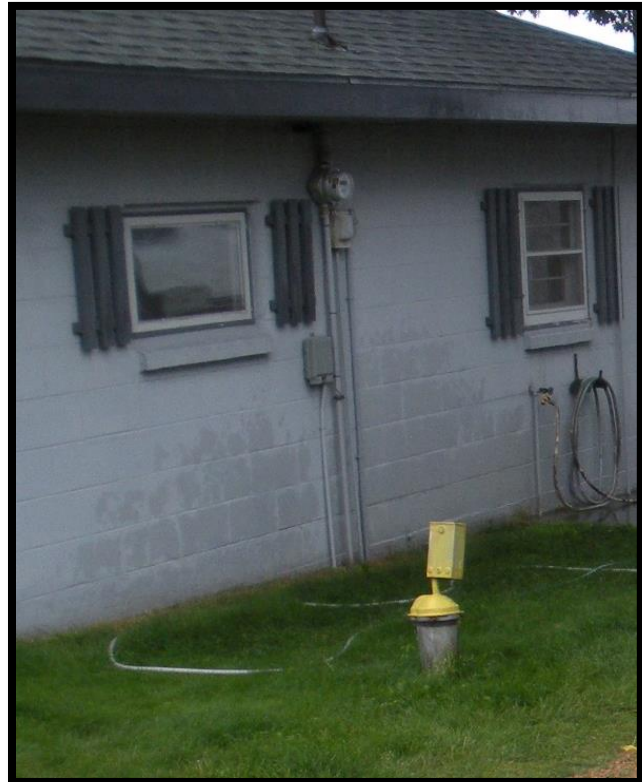
Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department has partnered with the Le Sueur County Public Health Department and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District to host a Fall Water Testing Clinic on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022**.

There are two different kits available:

- Arsenic
- Lead

**Each kit will be \$16.00.** A water test order form with payment is required before picking up your kit(s).

Extra kits will be available for those that did not submit their order form and payment by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be a first come first serve basis if you did not order your kits ahead of time.



**Figure 11. Example of a Well in Le Sueur County.**



**Figure 12. Another Example of a Well in Le Sueur County.**

There will be an informational meeting held on **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** to learn more about the importance of testing your water and to pick up your kits. If you are unable to attend the informational meeting, please let us know so we can make arrangements for you to pick up your kit(s)!

If you have any questions or would like to print off a copy of the water test order form, please visit the following website:

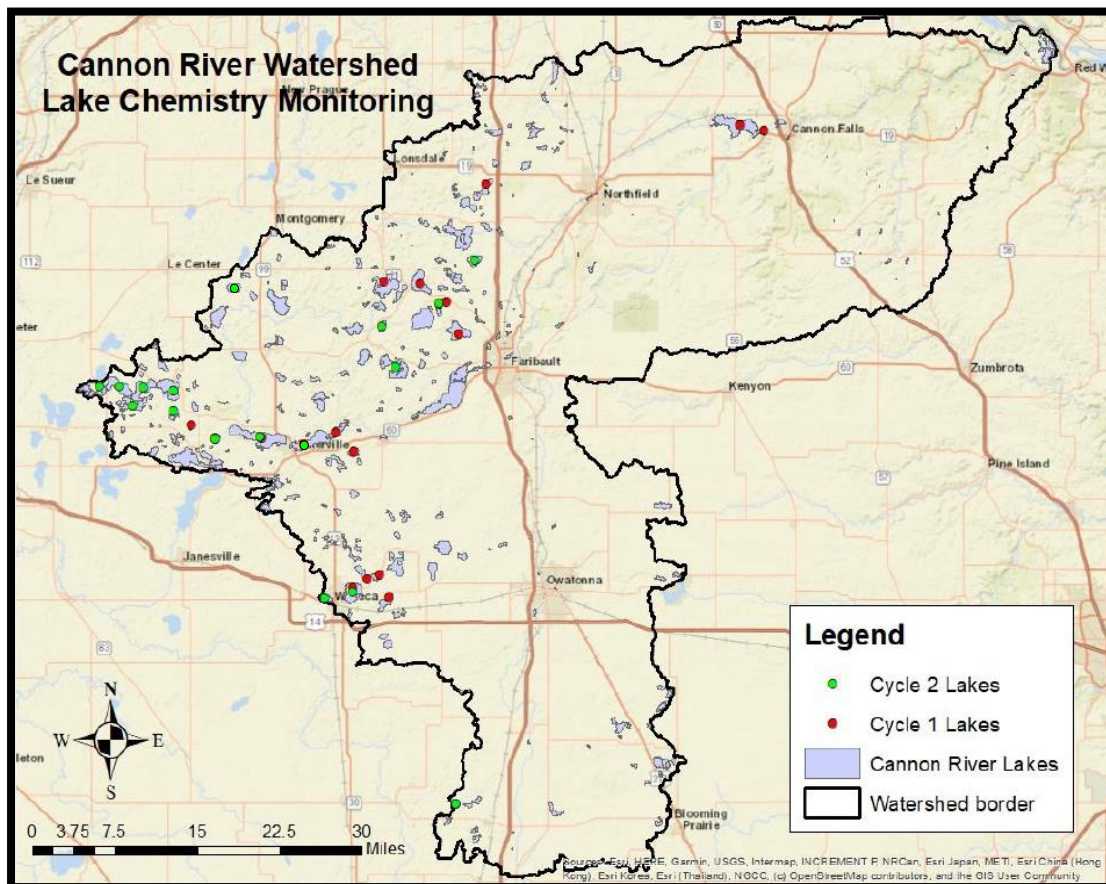
<https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/540/Water-Monitoring>.

Please contact Holly Kalbus at [hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us](mailto:hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us) or 507-357-8540.

# Water Sampling Cannon River Watershed

Le Sueur County and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) sampled lakes from May-September of 2022. Lake sampling was part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) efforts towards starting the second cycle of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report. The data that is collected from lake sampling is a critical piece in determining existing conditions of water resources, and also, critical for prioritizing and targeting future efforts to help improve and protect those water resources.

*All sample sites are identified in the map located below as a bright green dot.*



**Figure 13. Cycle 2 MPCA Sample Sites.**

*Photo Credit: MPCA*

# Minnesota Native Plant

## Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Common Yarrow, is a perennial that is a part of the Asteraceae (Aster) family. It grows 1 to 3 feet tall. The root structure is fibrous. The leaves narrow, feathery, and fern like and becomes smaller towards the top of the stem. The inflorescence (flower head) is comprised of clusters of dome-shaped flowers, and ranges in color from white to pink. The flower blooms from July through October. Yarrow is an extremely resistant and hardy plant that prefers poor soils. They also do well in full sun areas. You'll find this plant thriving in open woods, prairies, roadsides, fields, and mildly disturbed soils. Common Yarrow attracts bees, birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Common Yarrow has also been used for medicinal purposes, commonly found in the form of a tea, to treat ailments.



**Figure 14. Common Yarrow Feathery Leaves**



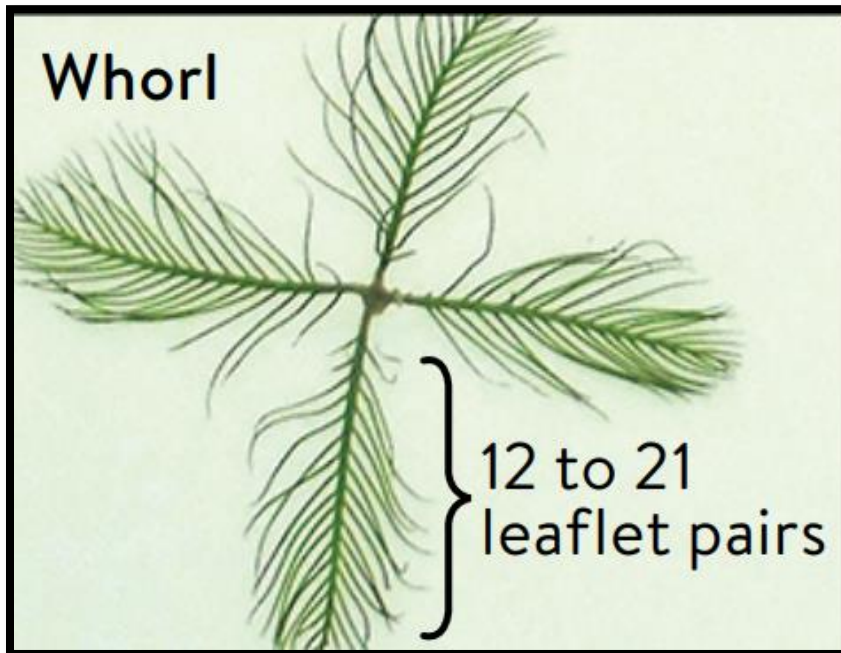
**Figure 17. Common Yarrow Flowerhead and Leaves**



**Figure 16. Common Yarrow Flowerhead**

# Non Native Plant

## Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



**Figure 17. Eurasian Watermilfoil Leaflets.**

*Photo Credit: Minnesota DNR*

Eurasian Watermilfoil is a perennial that is a part of the Haloragaceae (watermilfoil) family. It can grow from 3 to 20 feet tall. It originates from Asia, Europe, and North Africa and was likely introduced to the U.S. by movement of watercraft and water-related equipment. It is considered invasive and should be eradicated! The leaves are feather like and whorled around the stem. Each leaf has 12-21 leaflet pairs. The tip of the plant can be red or pink in color.

The inflorescence (flower head) is comprised of a small pink flower spike that produces tiny yellow flowers. The flower blooms twice a year, usually from mid-June to late July. Eurasian Watermilfoil is aggressive. Additionally, they negatively impact Minnesota waterbodies causing recreational, economic, and ecological damage.

Northern Watermilfoil, is native to Minnesota, and looks very similar to the Eurasian species. The most effective way to distinguish between native and nonnative milfoil is by the number of leaflet pairs. Northern Watermilfoil has 5-10 leaflet pairs whereas Eurasian Watermilfoil has 12-21 leaflet pairs.

# Contact Information

## Environmental Services Department

Planning & Zoning, Feedlots, Solid Waste, & Septics

Phone: 507-357-8538

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## Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

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To see which DNR staff is the Area Hydrologist for your region, please click on the following link:  
[https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area\\_hydros.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf)