

WATERMILFOIL

(*Myriophyllum* spp.)



Watermilfoil is the common name for about 20 species of the aquatic plant genus *Myriophyllum*, which means "many leaves." Most common species of watermilfoil are native to the United States and are not generally pests. Worst are those which have been imported from South America, parrotfeather, *M. brasiliense*, and Asia, eurasian watermilfoil, *M. spicatum*.

Leaves of various watermilfoils range from finely divided feathery leaves along most of a plant stem to scalelike leaves (bracts) near the top. Leaves may be arranged circularly in whorls about the stem or may be placed alternately on the stem, depending upon the species. Bases of leaf parts generally encircle the stem.

All major leaf parts resemble feathers enough so that it can be said that this characteristic can be used to identify a watermilfoil. For exact species identification, flowers and seeds found in the axils (junction of leaf and stem) of the scalelike leaves are needed.

Flowers are small and inconspicuous. During flowering, tips of watermilfoil stems extend above the water surface. Stem tips may take on a reddish or pinkish cast; in other species stem tips are typically greenish.

Stems of watermilfoil usually remain under water. Roots extend from the stems to mud where they attach weakly. After watermilfoil matures, wave action may break the root connections and the submerged plants may pile up on the windward side of a lake.

Imported watermilfoils are serious pests on both east and west coasts; local infestations of other species occur across the nation.

Sodium arsenite introduced into water at 4 parts per million will kill watermilfoil and other weed species. This chemical should be handled with great care.

Spraying with 2,4-D is usually unsuccessful because the stem does not transport the chemical downward to any extent. Granular applications of 2,4-D at higher concentrations have been successful provided that the granules can penetrate the dense submerged growth. In this way, 2,4-D is absorbed by roots and carried throughout the plants.

Endothall and silvex have also been useful in watermilfoil control.

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sure you water it in well," said Ralph White. Furthermore, he mused, when you aren't sure of the effects of the chemical you're using, start to apply it at a very low rate, then work up until you get desired effects. "After all, once you put it on, you can't take it off," the turf grower said pointedly.

The crossfire of questions and answers was a lively conclusion to the 1963 convention of the Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida, which has vowed to make even more dramatic progress in the coming year, both in service to its members and in more help for the public.

To carry out this momentous task, delegates selected as their new president Ted Kaplan, who runs King Spray Service in Miami. The three regional vice presidents who'll assist are: (southern region) Hugh Sherouse of Hugh's Power Spraying, Pompano Beach; (central region) D. E. VanVolkenburg of Lawns, Inc. in St. Petersburg; and (northern region) William King, King Landscaping, Orlando.

NWCC Moves to Hotel Astor For 1964's Varied Program

Breaking with the traditional meeting place, the Northeastern Weed Control Conference will convene next year at the Hotel Astor in New York City for its 18th annual session.

In a diverse program Jan. 8-10, delegates will hear technical papers on herbicide-soil interactions, surfactants, pesticide uses, highway weed control, and, as usual, the new chemical report.

General program categories include Agronomic Crops, Horticultural Crops, Turf, Aquatics, Conservation and Forestry, Utilities, and Public Health.

Nearly 700 weed controllers from field, laboratory, and industry are expected to attend. A \$6 registration fee includes admission to all sessions and a copy of the proceedings.

For details, write Dr. John A. Meade, Secretary-Treasurer, Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Dept. of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park.