

sassa Springs, Crystal River, and Weekiwachee Springs are only a few of its famous water attractions.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil  
Dominates and Damages  
Water Resources**

Eurasian watermilfoil, now well established along the west coast of Florida, is a submersed vascular aquatic plant which produces a mat of vegetation several feet thick. It dominates the water where it grows. It can severely damage water resources by stopping recreational activities such as fishing, skiing, boating, and swimming; by clogging channels used for navigation and drainage; by destroying commercial fisheries; and by limiting the appeal of these areas as tourist attractions.

Florida now has three common species of watermilfoil. Parrot-feather and broadleaf milfoil have been established for many years. Eurasian watermilfoil's adaptation to a wide range of environmental conditions makes it a potential problem plant throughout Florida. It can be distinguished by its emersed flower spikes 2 to 4 inches long, or by its leaf whorls which are 10 to 14 finely dissected segments on each side.

The complex problem facing Florida is where and how rapidly watermilfoil will spread. The most efficient method of reproduction and spread is by fragmentation (4). A single 2-inch fragment may take root and grow 4 feet or more in 3 months (5). The interconnection of many of the rivers, and the movement of small boats from one area to another, increase the chances of its spreading to the other watersheds. The spread of milfoil over 200,000 acres in Chesapeake Bay in 10 years should illustrate the problem. Florida is well aware of how rapidly a plant can be disseminated, as a result of experience with the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and a more recent aquatic plant, Florida elodea (*Hydrilla verticillata*). The public and also its State agencies must be convinced that eurasian watermilfoil is a serious threat.

The future of the water re-

sources may be determined by action taken in the next few years. Research is urgently needed on the ecology of the plant and on its control. Florida should evaluate methods successful in other parts of the USA. A successful method of control should be found and then utilized in a program. This will depend on early identification of the weed and on prompt treatment. Anyone who finds this plant in areas other than those discussed here should report it to a local Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission office. Cooperation between the public and its State agencies will be an important factor in preventing spread.

**Literature Cited**

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**Meeting  
Dates**



**Fertilizer Industry Round Table, 17th Annual Meeting, Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C., Nov. 15-17.**

**Entomological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Hotel New Yorker, N.Y.C., Nov. 27-30.**

**National Fertilizer Solutions Association, Annual Convention, Denver-Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colo., Nov. 27-30.**

**National Aerial Applicators Association, Annual Conference, Marriott Hotel, Dallas, Tex., Dec. 3-5.**

**North Central Weed Control Conference, Civic Auditorium, Fargo, No. Dak., Dec. 5-7.**

**Louisiana Turfgrass Association, Annual Conference, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, La., Dec. 7-8.**

**Illinois Turfgrass Conference, University of Illinois campus, Urbana, Ill., Dec. 7-8.**

**Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Turfgrass Conference, Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, O., Dec. 11-13.**

**American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Winter Meeting, Cobo Hall, Detroit, Mich., Dec. 13-15.**

**Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y., Jan. 3-5.**

**Southern Weed Conference, 21st Meeting, Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 16-18.**

**Virginia Turfgrass Conference, Virginia Turfgrass Council and V.P.I., Golden Triangle Motel, Norfolk, Va., Jan. 23-24.**

**California Weed Conference, 20th Annual, El Rancho Hotel, Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 22-24.**

**Weed Society of America, 1968 Meeting, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La., Feb. 5-8.**

**American Sod Producers Association, First Annual Meeting, In conjunction with Golf Course Superintendents Assn. Convention, San Francisco Hilton Hotel, San Francisco, Calif., Feb. 18-23.**

**Western Society of Weed Science, formerly Western Weed Control Conference, Owyhee Hotel, Boise, Idaho, Mar. 19-21.**

**Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Annual Meeting, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., Mar. 20-21.**