

MYRIOPHYLLUM VERTICILLATUM L.  
Green Water-milfoil

FAMILY: Haloragaceae

HABIT: Submersed perennial aquatic herb; flowers June-September; fruits July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles all other members of the genus. However, *M. verticillatum* is the only Ohio water-milfoil with deeply pectinate flower bracts. Vegetative material is identified with difficulty and should not be used as a basis for species determination.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in N.A. s. to MA, NY, IN, IL, NE, and UT.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a post-1980 record from Summit County. There are pre-1980 records from Athens, Champaign, and Ottawa counties.

HABITAT: Shallow waters of acid to circumneutral lakes.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the wetland habitat; competition with the weedy *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly poor due to the small number of clean, clear lakes left in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: Weber and Nooden (1974) state that, like *Myriophyllum sibiricum*, *M. verticillatum* often reproduces vegetatively by the formation of turions, modified leaves that act as overwintering devices. These turions detach from the main plant in the fall, float freely for a while, and eventually sink to the lake bottom where they form roots and develop into new plants in the spring.

This species is easily misidentified and could be overlooked due to its similarity to the far more common *M. spicatum*. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Aiken, S.G. 1981. A conspectus of *Myriophyllum* in North America. *Brittonia* 33: 57-69.

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Roberts, M.L. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1982. Dicotyledons. In Cooperrider, T.S., ed. Endangered and threatened plants of Ohio. *Ohio Biol. Surv. Biol. Notes* No. 16: 48-84.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.

Weber, J.A. and L.D. Nooden. 1974. Turion formation and germination in *Myriophyllum verticillatum*: Phenology and its interpretation. Mich. Bot. 13: 151-158.



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