

# Why is milfoil a problem?

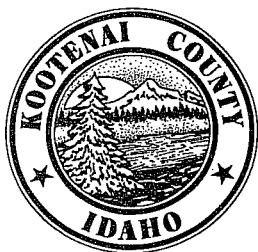
As a plant alien to North America, Eurasian watermilfoil has no natural enemies. It grows in almost any waterbody-- lakes, streams and rivers as well as irrigation canals and small ponds.

Since its introduction into Washington state about 1977, Eurasian milfoil has spread to many parts of that state. It has choked out native plants in many locations. It has impacted recreational activities, hydroelectric power generation, and fish and wildlife habitat.

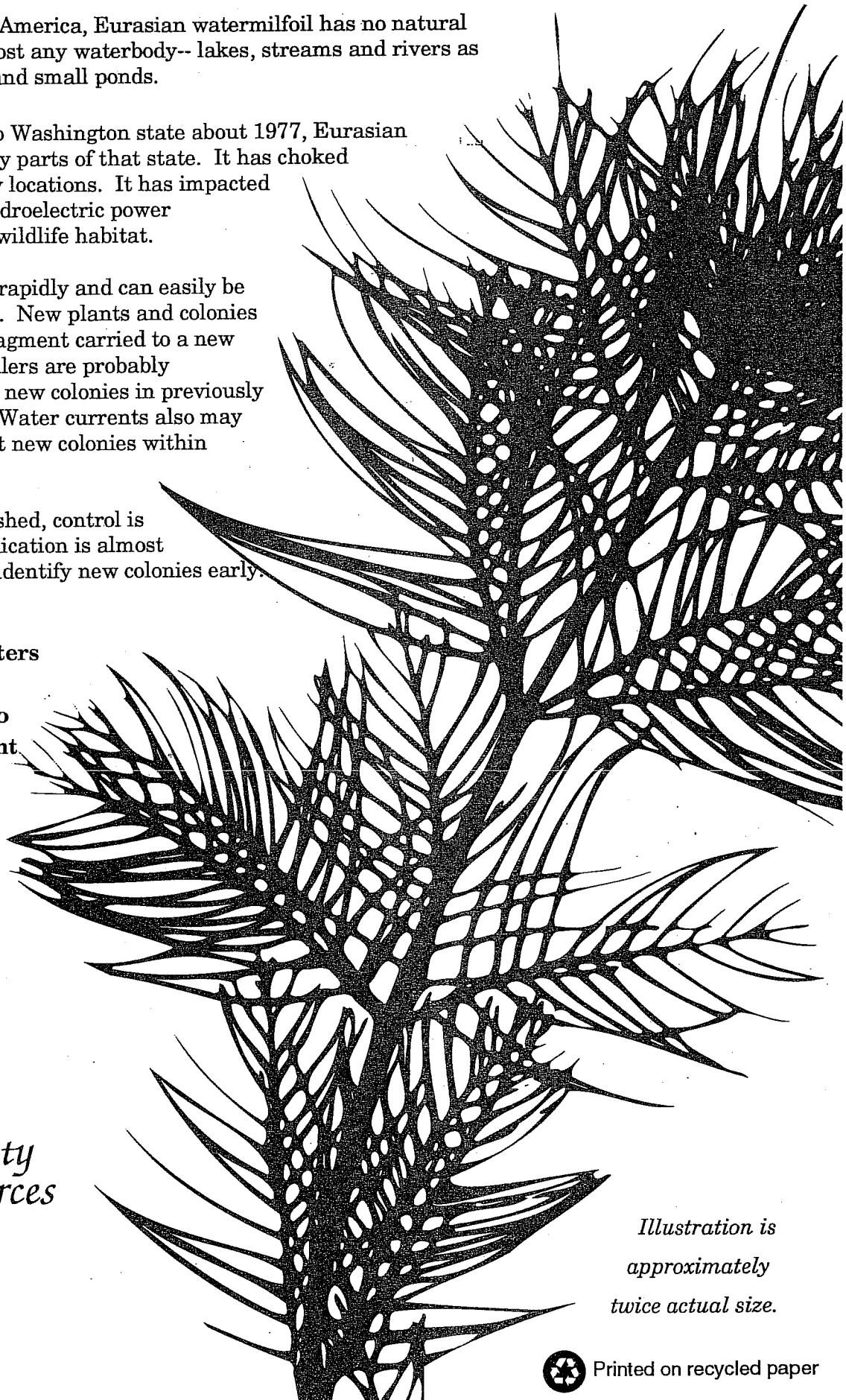
Eurasian milfoil spreads rapidly and can easily be carried into Idaho waters. New plants and colonies can start from a single fragment carried to a new area. Boats and boat trailers are probably responsible for almost all new colonies in previously uninfested waterbodies. Water currents also may carry fragments and start new colonies within the same waterbody.

Once colonies are established, control is difficult and costly. Eradication is almost impossible. It is vital to identify new colonies early.

**All fishermen and boaters should be alert to spot Eurasian milfoil and to contact the Department of Natural Resources Protection at: (208) 667-6426 as soon as possible.**



*Kootenai County  
Natural Resources  
Protection*



*Illustration is  
approximately  
twice actual size.*



Printed on recycled paper

# Have you seen this water weed?

It's called Eurasian watermilfoil.  
Once it starts growing it is almost  
impossible to control.

Eurasian milfoil can be difficult to  
identify. Sometimes it resembles  
native aquatic plants such as  
Northern milfoil and coontail.  
To identify Eurasian milfoil:

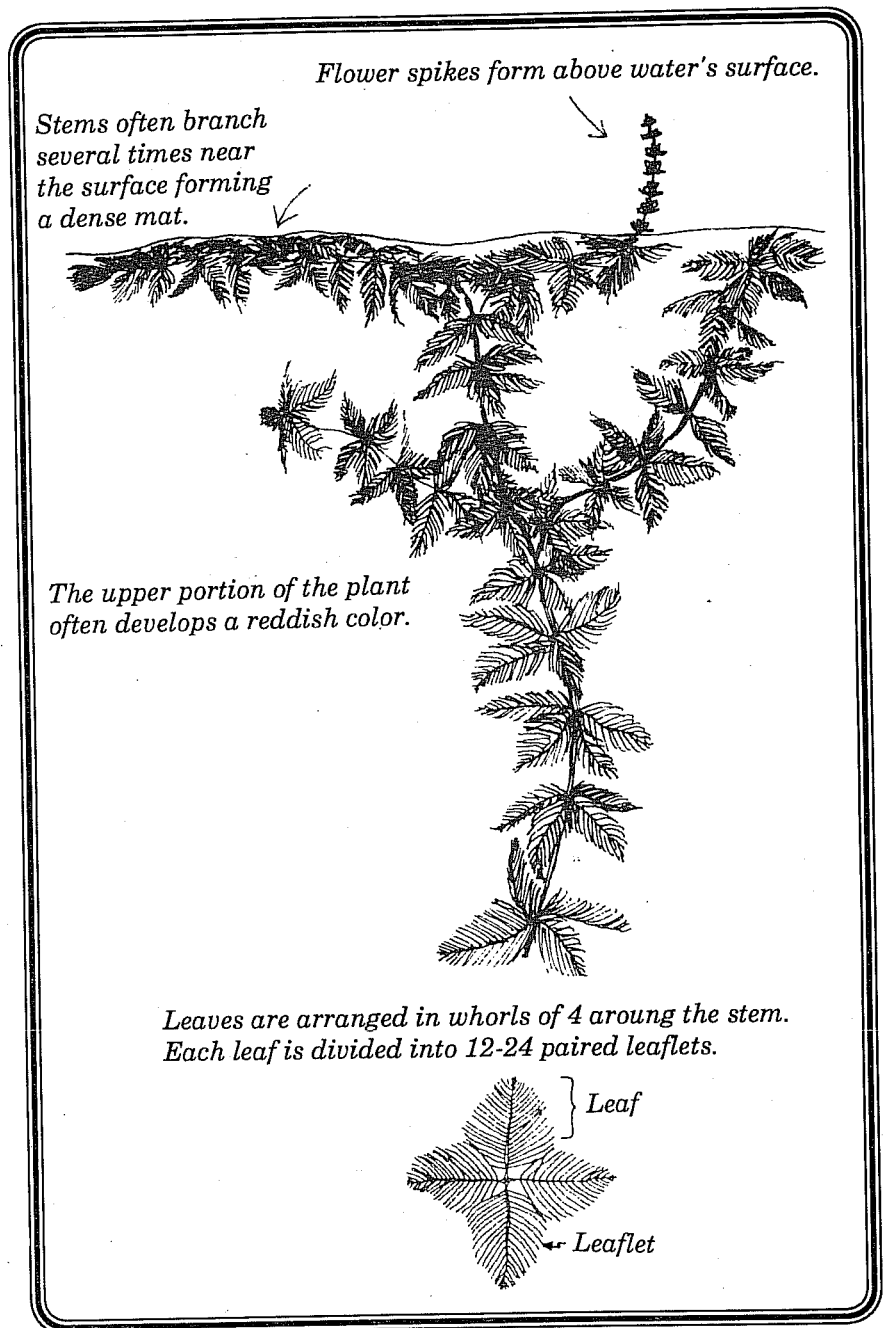
- ▣ Count the pairs of leaflets.  
Eurasian milfoil has twelve or more  
pairs. (See close-up to the right.)

- ▣ It has feather-like appearance.  
The leaves collapse around the stem  
when removed from the water.

- ▣ The topmost leaves and stems  
may be reddish-brown or pink.

- ▣ Mature leaves are usually  
arranged in whorls of four around  
the stem.

If you've seen this plant, please  
contact the **Department of  
Natural Resources Protection** at  
(208) 667-6426 immediately.



Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive, non-native aquatic plant that interferes with boating, swimming, water skiing and fishing. Fragments of Eurasian watermilfoil are transported from lake to lake on boats and trailers. New plants grow from these small pieces. You can help prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil in Idaho and neighboring states by removing all aquatic plants from your trailer, boat, motor/propeller and anchor before launching and after leaving the water. Please take special care to remove aquatic plants from the wet wells of trailered boats, board boxes of sailboats and the interior of car top boats and canoes.

*Thank you,  
Kootenai County Natural  
Resources Protection Department*