

Alert !

Report sightings of this species:

- online: <https://irecord.org.uk/>
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- or scan QR code to report a sighting:



Broadleaf watermilfoil

Scientific name: *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*

Also known as: Twoleaf watermilfoil, often mislabelled as *Enydria aquatica*, *M. Brasiliense*, *M. proserpinacoides*

Native to: South-central USA

Habitat: Still or slow-moving freshwater.

A submerged evergreen aquatic perennial herb.

Not established in Great Britain (GB) but occasionally recorded in the wild in the past. Forms dense mats in and on the water that prevent water flow, reduce sunlight and oxygen availability, and interfere with recreation and navigation.

It is illegal to buy, sell, keep or release broadleaf watermilfoil in GB. For details refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-plant-species-rules-in-england-and-wales>

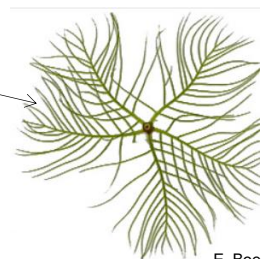


J.L.C.H. van Valkenburg

Key ID Features

Leaves can be emergent (held above the water) or submerged (below the water surface)

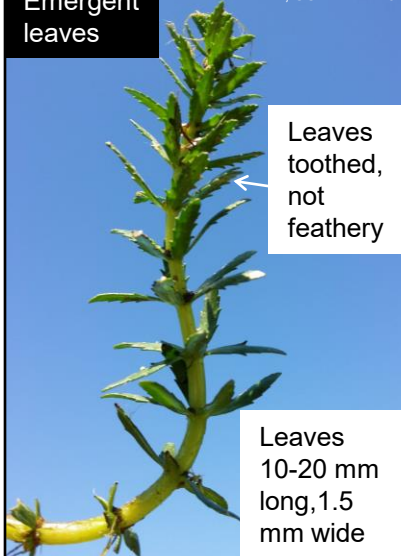
Leaves form in whorls of 4-5 around the stem (image shows submerged leaf)



E. Boer

Emergent leaves

Stefan Lefnaer, CC BY-SA 4.0

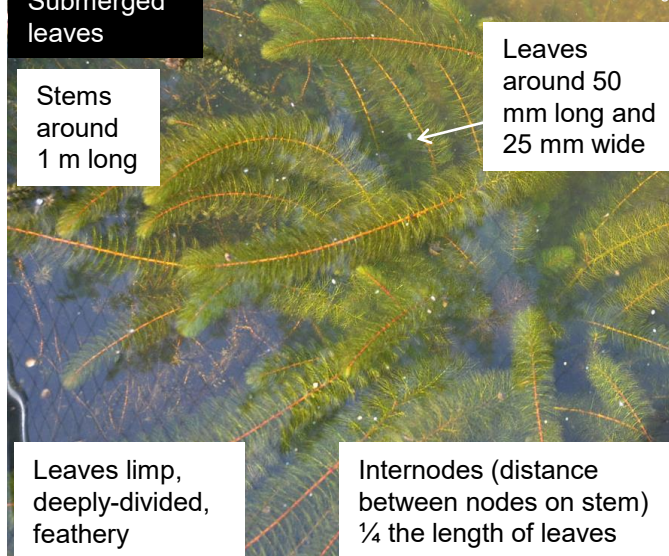


Leaves toothed, not feathery

Leaves 10-20 mm long, 1.5 mm wide

Submerged leaves

J.L.C.H. van Valkenburg



Stems around 1 m long

Leaves around 50 mm long and 25 mm wide

Leaves limp, deeply-divided, feathery

Internodes (distance between nodes on stem) 1/4 the length of leaves

Flowers are tiny, reddish, produced from May to October, but rarely seen



Similar Species

There are several native species that could easily be confused with broadleaf watermilfoil: water violet (*Hottonia palustris*), whorled water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*), hornwort (*Ceratophyllum* spp) and marestail (*Hippuris vulgaris*). Non-native parrot's feather (*M. aquaticum*) may also be confused.

Water violet

Native
(*Hottonia palustris*)

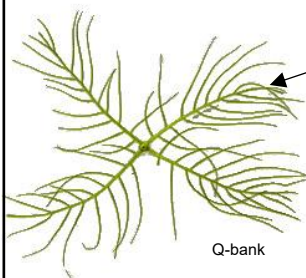
Leaves arranged alternately on the stem (not in whorls)



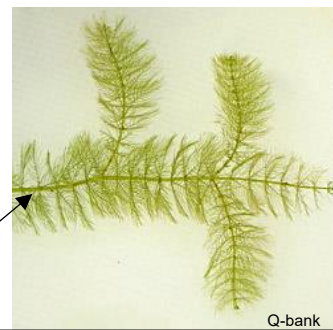
Whorled water-milfoil

Native
(*Myriophyllum verticillatum*)

Emergent and submerged leaves feathery, arranged in (pseudo)whorls

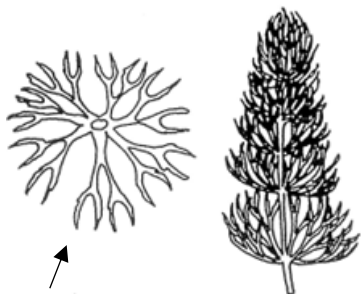


Internodes half the length of leaves



Hornwort

Native
(*Ceratophyllum* spp)

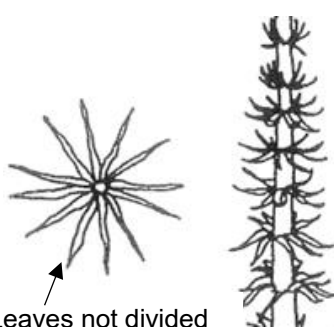


Leaves have 'tuning fork' ends, arranged in whorls



Marestail

Native
(*Hippuris vulgaris*)



Leaves not divided



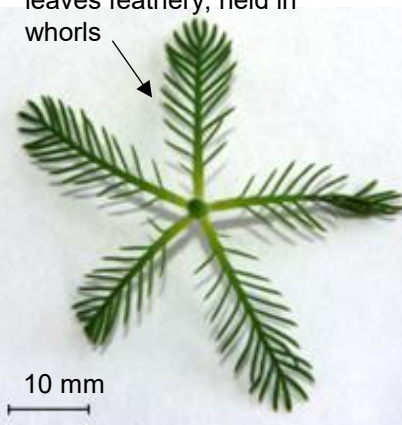
Parrot's feather

Non-native
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Internodes half the length of submerged leaves



Emergent and submerged leaves feathery, held in whorls



Further information:

- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/2286>
- <https://q-bankplants.eu/lookalikes/Myriophyllum/Myriophyllum.HTML>
- <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.34940>