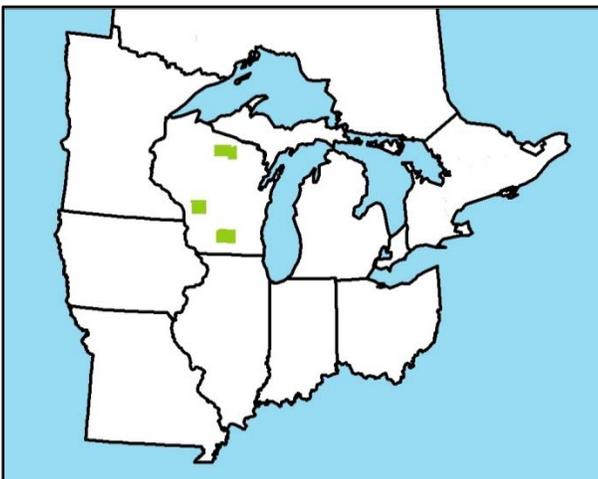


POND WATER-STARWORT

Callitriche stagnalis



Description: Pond water-starwort is an aquatic, perennial herb with an elongated 4-12 inch stem and opposite leaves. Leaves can be floating or submerged. Floating leaves are oval to spoon-shaped, have 5-7 veins, and grow 0.1-0.3 inches wide and up to 0.8 inches long. Submerged leaves are smaller, with 1 vein, have a linear shape, and grow to 0.2-0.4 inches long, although they can be broader in form and resemble floating leaves. Tiny petal-less flowers are located in the leaf axils. Flowers have 2 small bracts at their base, which appear to help them float, aiding pollination. Nearly round, tiny fruit (0.06-0.08 inches thick) form in leaf axils and have a thick winged margin.



Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario



Ecological threat: Pond water-starwort is capable of forming dense mats in stagnant or slow-moving water-bodies, including ponds, marshes, and along banks of streams and lakes. It is capable of crowding out and displacing native aquatic vegetation. It is an aquarium plant, and its non-coastal populations in the US are likely related to aquarium disposal. It spreads by seed and plant fragments. Bird dispersal (through seed ingestion or seed/plant attachment to feathers) and vehicular dispersal (seed/plant attachment to boats and tires) have contributed to its spread.

Native Range: Europe and North Africa

Current North American Range: Pond water-starwort has a scattered distribution in North America. It is found in the mid-Atlantic states, parts of New England, along the West Coast, and in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Wisconsin, and Montana.

For information on **aquatic plant management**, see http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_21.pdf.

Photo Credits: Top - University of Florida/IFAS; Bottom left - Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org; Bottom right - University of Florida/IFAS

Early detection and rapid response can help
stop the spread!