Non-Native Water-milfoils

- herbaceous water plants (2 very invasive Water-milfoils are included on this card)
- underwater leaves in whorls: feathery, with many pairs of threadlike divisions
- there are many non-native and native species of Water-milfoil: **ASK EXPERTS FOR HELP**
- be suspicious of thick, dense growths of underwater stems with whorled feathery leaves

**Parrotfeather** *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Vell.) Verdc.
Alternate Common Names: Parrotfeather Milfoil; Brazilian Parrot’s Feather
- leaves above water’s surface resemble little conifer trees with bright green leaves, ¾"-2"
- leaves are mostly above water, each with 6-18 paired divisions;
- underwater leaves, when present, have 20-30 paired divisions
- plant **never produces turions** (bulb-like shoots from the base or other parts of the stem)

**Eurasian Water-Milfoil** *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.
Alternate Common Name: Spike Watermilfoil
- underwater leaves usually in whorls of 4 (3-5) individual leaves; each less than 1½" long
- underwater leaves most often with (9-)12-24 tightly-spaced, paired divisions
- underwater leaves tend to collapse around stem when pulled out of water
- stem frequently tan or tan-red; whorls widely spaced compared to leaf length
- leaf outline is usually narrower than an egg’s shape: **leaves look clipped (squared) at tips**
- plant **never produces turions** (bulb-like shoots from base or other parts of the stem)
- small leaves above the water’s surface are undivided and not toothed: flowers are pinkish

*Text and photos by: Charlotte Pyle, October 2002*