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NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum sibiricum

Habitat Preference

Found in lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers with sandy or boggy bottoms. Mostly in shallow water less than four feet deep.

Characteristics



Vegetative

Submersed, feather-like fanned leaves. Leaves whorled along the stem, usually four leaves in a whorls. Five to twelve leaflets on each side of the midstem (fewer than the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil).

Flowers

Pink female flowers and white male flowers, Four petals. Four seeds enclosed in the fruit, two to three millimeters long with four smooth lobes.

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Provides nutrients to waterfowl (leaves and fruit).
- Decomposition by bacteria and fungi creates *detritus* (7), food for many aquatic invertebrates.
- Traps *detritus* (7) and provides invertebrate habitat, shade, and shelter.



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