

Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Also called: Watermilfoil

Family name: Watermilfoil (Haloragales)

Native range: South America

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *highly* threatening to natural plan communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Herbaceous rooted submergent (completely below water) or emergent (piercing through water) plant
- Stems trail along ground or water surface; become erect & leafy at ends
- Stems 5'-6' long



Parrot feather stems emerging from surface of water

Leaves:

- Each leaf is pinnately compound (1 center stem with many leaflets)
- Abundant, bright green, feathery
- Leaves whorled around stem
- Emergent leaves are larger, less divided & greener than submerged leaves



1 compound leaf of parrot feather



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Flowers:

- Inconspicuous
- Formed in the axils of emergent leaves
- Blooms in spring (sometimes fall)

Fruit:

- None
- Only female plants exist in North America
- Reproduction occurs vegetatively

Habitat:

- Lakes, ponds and slow moving streams
- Can form dense mats that can clog waterways

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- Widespread invasive- rooted, emergent, herbaceous aquatic plant
- Spreads 3'-10'- may reach up to 33'
- Grayish green leaves, whorls of 3-4
- Small, yellow flower- emerges 2" above water
- Fruit is a hard capsule

Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

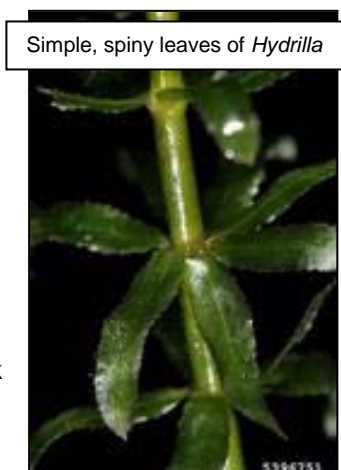
- Native to North America- common in lakes & ponds
- Aquatic plant lacking roots (free floating)
- Can dominate a habitat
- Feathery leaves arranged in whorls on the stem-- resembles a raccoon tail
- Plant feels rough to the touch



Feathery leaves of Coontail

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

- Federal noxious weed
- Herbaceous, perennial, aquatic plant
- Long (0.4") & thin (~2 mm) leaves- simple
- Leaves whorled around stem- leaves may have sharp spines along their edges
- Stems have tubers (bud like pieces that may break off and grow)



Simple, spiny leaves of Hydrilla

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