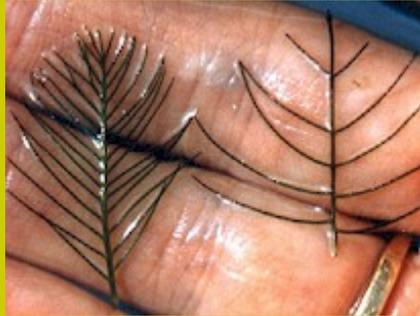


## Important Tips to Remember

### Learn How to Identify Eurasian Watermilfoil:

This non-native aquatic plant species is present in Christina Lake and has serious impacts on the natural environment.



In the photograph above, the leaflet on the left is Eurasian Watermilfoil and the leaflet on the right is Northern Milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) a native species present in Christina Lake.

You can Help Reduce the Spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil by:



- Clear all plant materials from boats, motors, and trailers.
- Dispose of plants away from water bodies.
- Put them in a garbage can or keep them for your home compost pile.

## PHOTO CREDITS:

Western Society of Weed Science (Richard Old)  
University of Minnesota (2)  
Washington State—Department of Ecology  
North American Lake Management Society

## DIAGRAMS:

Environment Canada—Source: Crow and Hellquist  
2000 (Modified)



Christina Lake and many of the lakes feeder streams provide drinking water for the entire Community. Please help us to take care of our watershed.

### Christina Lake Stewardship Society

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PO Box 373  
Christina Lake, BC V0H 1E0

Phone: 250-447-2504  
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Email: [clss@sunshinecable.com](mailto:clss@sunshinecable.com)  
Website: [lakesteward.ca](http://lakesteward.ca)



## Christina Lake Stewardship Society

## Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS THAT WORK!

## Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Aquatic plants are an important natural feature in Christina Lake. Several species rely on them for habitat and food. However, Eurasian Watermilfoil (an introduced and invasive aquatic plant) is not beneficial for our native species and marine ecosystem.

### Impacts of Eurasian Watermilfoil Include:

- ◆ Grows and spreads rapidly
- ◆ Invades and replaces native plants
- ◆ Obstructs swimming, boating, waterskiing and fishing
- ◆ Dense plant growth could limit recreational water activities negatively impacting tourism

### Growth and Spread:

Eurasian Watermilfoil is a perennial plant that has a fibrous root system. During the spring and summer months, very rapid growth of reddish shoots may reach the water surface from depths of up to five meters. Floating plant fragments dislodged by waves and boating activities are spread by water currents, making the plant difficult to contain. New plants grow when the fragments sink and root best in protected locations. The most common form of spread is by boats and boat trailers carrying plant fragments from one water body to another.

### Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) Christina Lake Milfoil Control Program:

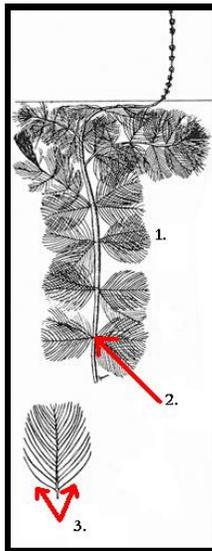
Annually since 1987, the RDKB has been conducting the Christina Lake Milfoil Control Program. The main control method used for Eurasian Watermilfoil extraction from selected sites is hand pulling which is performed by the RDKB Scuba Diving Team (June through September). For more information on this program visit their website at [www.rdkb.com](http://www.rdkb.com) or phone 1-800-355-7352.



### Identifying Eurasian Watermilfoil:

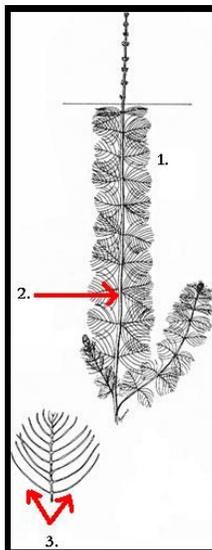
A number of milfoil species occur in Christina Lake and these species are very similar to each other. The two milfoil species that are most abundant in Christina Lake are described below.

#### Eurasian Watermilfoil (Non- Native) : (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



1. Delicate feather like leaflets are mostly the same size. Leaves are usually limp when out of water.
2. Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 3 to 5 around stem. Long spaghetti-like stem.
3. Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.

#### Northern Watermilfoil (Native): (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)



1. Rigid feather-like leaves forming a Christmas tree shape. The lower leaflets are usually quite long. Leaves are usually stiff when out of water.
2. Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 4 to 6 around stem. Stem is usually whitish or whitish green in color
3. Usually 7 to 10 leaflet pairs per leaf.

### What You Can Do :

Learn how to identify Eurasian Watermilfoil.



Avoid boating or other activities in infested sites.



Reduce spread by clearing all plant material from boats, motors, and trailers. Pick off every fragment. **A lake can become infested by just one fragment.**



Dispose of plants away from water bodies. Put them in the garbage or in your home compost.



If you notice plant fragments in the water ; remove them and put them in the garbage away from the water body.



Seek expert advice if you are considering management of this species on your foreshore.

For more information on Eurasian Watermilfoil visit:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/brochures/milfoil.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/brochures/milfoil.html)

