

## What is Eurasian Water milfoil?

Eurasian Water milfoil is an aggressive, non-native water weed which is now flourishing in Washington. It chokes out native plants and spreads rapidly to new areas.

Water milfoil was first spotted in Washington in the mid 1970's. Today, it grows in the Okanogan, Columbia, and Pend Oreille rivers. It has also infested lakes in King, Pierce, Thurston, Chelan, Okanogan and Lewis counties.

## How does it get started in a lake or river?

Water milfoil reproduces by a process called "fragmentation." Water milfoil plants easily break into small pieces and each piece can form roots. A single wisp can multiply into 250 million new plants in one year. *Water milfoil is readily spread between lakes and rivers by boaters carrying plant fragments on their boats and trailers.*

## What Problems are Caused by Water milfoil?

Because it is not a native species here, Water milfoil has few natural controls. By midsummer it forms a "mat" so dense it restricts swimming, boating and fishing. Several drowning incidents have been blamed on swimmers getting tangled in it.

## KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

**Area #1**  
Reservation  
Jack Pitts

**Area #2**  
Omak / Okanogan  
Bonnie Lawrence

**Area #3**  
Methow  
Shauna Hicks

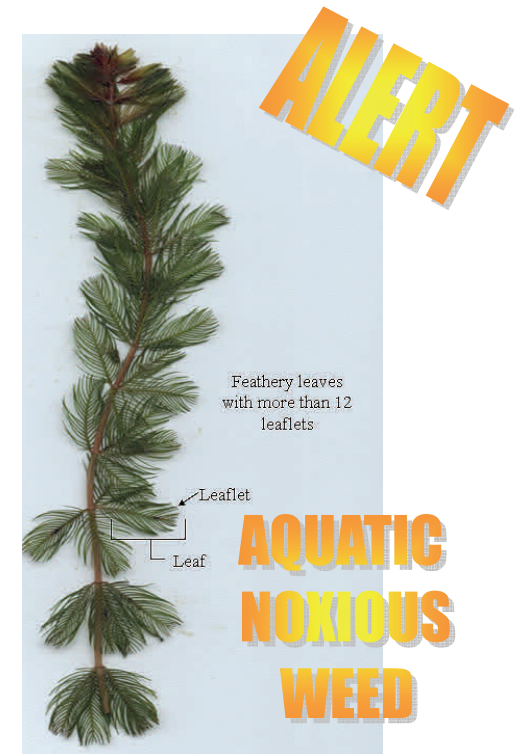
**Area #4**  
Central County  
Vicki Davis

**Area #5**  
North County  
Jan Asmussen

**Board Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Meetings will be held in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 4:00. You are always invited to attend.**

**Working together we can and will control the spread of noxious weeds.**

# EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL



**Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control Board**

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[www.okanogancounty.org/nw](http://www.okanogancounty.org/nw)



**Water milfoil reduces oxygen levels in the water and chokes out fish and wildlife habitats.**



### You Can Help

- Remove all weeds, not just milfoil, from your boat, motor and equipment when you leave a water body.
- Please don't throw weeds back into the water. Dispose of them properly in a garbage can.

## What can be done about Eurasian Water Milfoil?

**Prevention:** Pick off every fragment you find on your boat or trailer and put them in a garbage can. If you see Water milfoil on someone else's boat or trailer, help them clean it off. **Remember, a lake can become infested by just one small fragment.**

**Mechanical Harvesting:** Mechanical "Harvesters" can control Water milfoil by "mowing" weed beds or digging up the root by a process called "rotovation." Rotovation appears to be an effective control method, although Water milfoil usually returns to treated areas within 2 to 3 years.

**Hand Harvesting:** Hand pulling Water milfoil early in a season works very well. The detached plants will float to the surface where it's important to **gather up all the pieces**. No permits are required for hand pulling.

**Bottom Screening:** Screens made of durable, non-buoyant material restrict light and space for plant growth. They can control Water milfoil in small areas.

**Herbicides:** Treatment of infested water with weed-killing chemicals requires special permits from Ecology.

**Please consult the Department of Ecology to find out which permits or approvals are required for each control method.**

**Remember, noxious weeds are everyone's responsibility!!!**

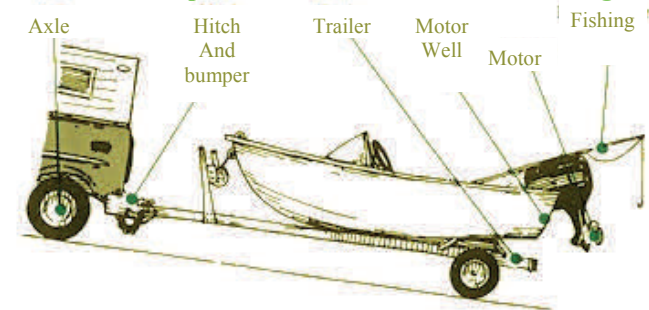
## Areas of Major Water Milfoil infestation



Areas of major milfoil infestation

**Washington is under siege and we need your help to keep it clean of further Water Milfoil infestation.**

### Check these places for Water milfoil when leaving.



**Be sure to check and *double* check your boat, trailer and equipment before leaving and entering a lake.**