

Native Water-milfoils
Late fall and early spring identification characteristics

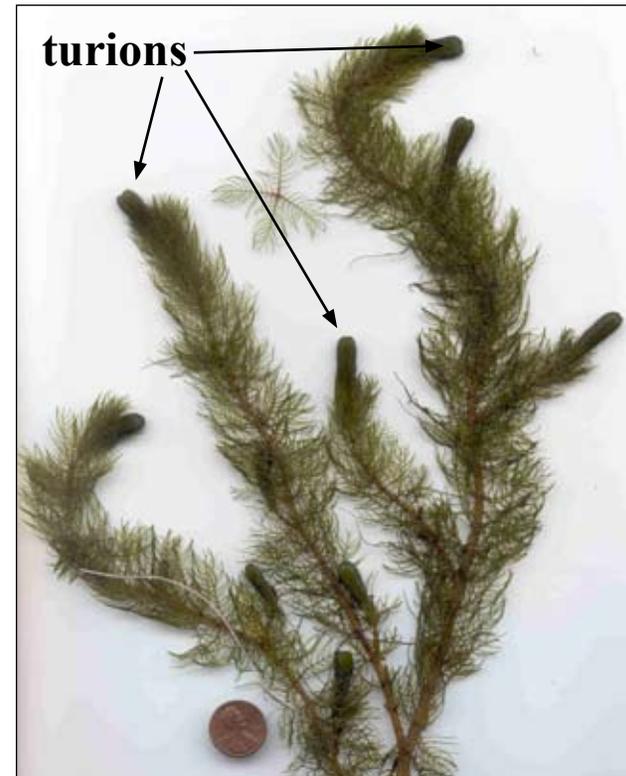
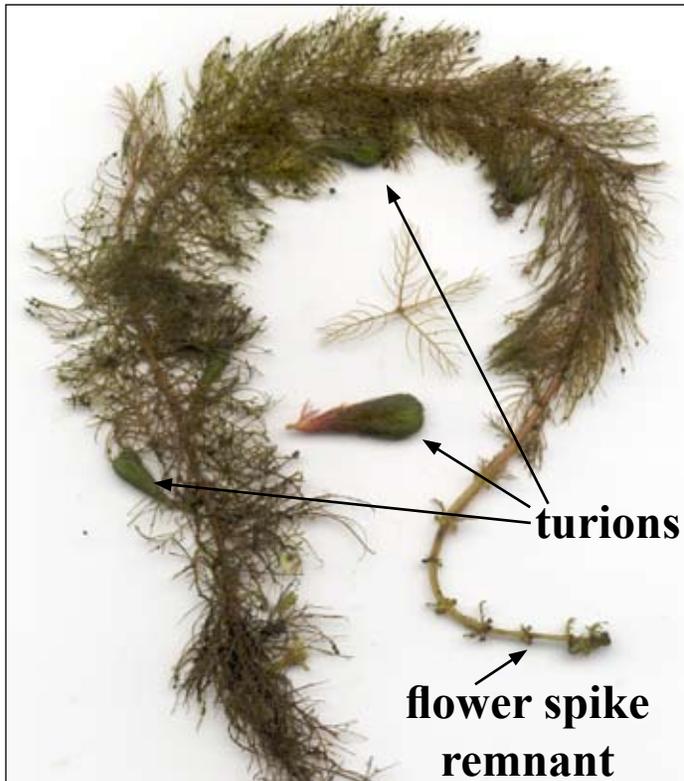


Several native water-milfoils form winter turions (buds). Turions are overwintering structures that are comprised of densely packed leaves. These turions form on the upper portion of the plant and/or on the plant's side branches during the fall of the year. The turions are often still attached to plants that are found washing up along shorelines in late fall (October-November). These turions break away from the plant and free-float to new areas. In the spring, the turions break dormancy and the small, thick, dark green turion leaves expand and grow. As the plant develops roots and continues to grow, the larger green summer leaves are produced at the tip of the plant. You can sometimes find the turion leaves at the base of the plant even into July. You may also see a "turionic arch" or U-shape at the base of northern water-milfoil throughout the year (early development of the arch is shown in pictures C and D on next page).

Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) and some native water-milfoils (NWM) do not form winter turions. **If you see turions or the turion leaves, you DO NOT have Eurasian water-milfoil.** If you do not see turions, use other identification features to determine if you have a native water-milfoil or Eurasian water-milfoil. In 2007 some EWM/NWM hybrids were found to have turions. More research is needed in this area.

Whorled Water-milfoil (native)

collected in October



Northern Water-milfoil (native)

Turions (pictures A & B). Turion leaf expansion and growth (picture C), followed by formation of summer leaves (picture D).

