

Invasive Species Alert

European Frog-bit

(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

Detected in Michigan

WATCH LIST SPECIES – PROHIBITED IN MICHIGAN

What to look for:

- Free-floating aquatic plant sometimes rooted in shallow water.
- Leaves are small, 0.5-2.5 inches, round to heart-shaped, with a purple-red underside.
- Leaves form a rosette.
- Single flower with three white petals and yellow center may be visible from June to August.

Habitat: Found in slow moving rivers, sheltered inlets, ponds, and ditches. Prefers waters rich in calcium with no wave action.

Native Range: Europe, Asia and Africa.

U.S. Distribution: New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington. Also found in Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

Michigan Distribution: Coastal areas of lakes Erie and Huron, inland lakes and ponds in southeast Michigan. In west Michigan, the Lower Grand River, Pentwater Lake and inland lakes in Kent County.

Local Concern: European frog-bit can form dense mats on the surface of slow-moving waters like bayous, backwaters and wetlands. Mats can impede boat traffic and alter food and habitat for ducks and fish. Prolific growth of European frog-bit can also reduce oxygen and light in the water column.

Means of Introduction or Spread: Plants or turions transported on boats, trailers and recreational gear. Once established, drifting mats of vegetation spread to connected waters.

High Risk Pathways: boating, hunting.



To report this species, visit www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies for contact information. Report online at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone

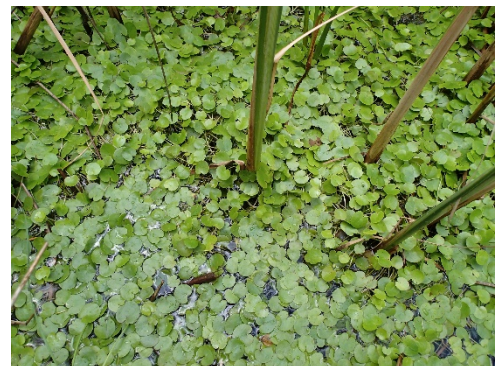


Illustration by Bruce Kerr