

Myriophyllum variifolium

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling emergent perennial herb with bright green needle like foliage like a small pine tree Submerged leaves are finely divided and pale green in colour.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The emergent leaves are in whorls of 5-6 and are usually entire, although the lower leaves may have a few teeth. The submerged leaves have up to 19 elongated and widely spaced leaflets.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myriophyllum propinquum has reddish stems and leaves are arranged in whorls of 3-4, whereas *M. variifolium* has whorls of 5-6.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised, Hunua Range, Auckland and Opawa River, Marlborough.

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies.

GENUS

Myriophyllum

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Myriophyllum variifolium Hook. f.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November to February

FRUITING

None produced

YEAR NATURALISED

1990

ORIGIN

Australia



REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental aquarium and pond plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Stem fragmentation and lateral stem growth. It does not produce viable seed in New Zealand, with only female flowers known from field sites.

ETYMOLOGY

myriophyllum: Many leaves

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myriophyllum-variifolium/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026