

# The Invasive Plant Detective Whiz Game

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Answer the questions to discover if there is an invader in our midst!!!

## Is your plant floating or submerged?

### 1. If Floating...

A. Is it a "Free-Floater" or is it attached to the bottom by a stem-a "Rooted Floater"?

I. If it's a "Free-Floater"



European Frogbit

- Suspect "**European Frog-bit**" if this description fits : smooth edged, heart shaped leaves on long stems in clumps. Leaves are dark, leather and often purplish red underneath

II. If it's a "Rooted Floater"

- Suspect **Water Chestnut** if the floating part of the plant is a rosette of toothed, triangular shaped leaves



Water Chestnut

### 2. If Submerged...

Are the leaves:

A. Whorling Lances: small lance shaped leaves arranged in whorls around the stem



Hydrilla

I. If there are generally 4 or more leaves/whorl

- Suspect **Hydrilla** if the leaves feel scratchy and have a distinct saw toothed edge visible with the naked eye

- Suspect **Brazilian Elodea** if the leaves feel smooth & the small teeth on the leaf edge are difficult to see with the naked eye



Brazilian Elodea

B. Finely Divided: "Feathers or Fans"

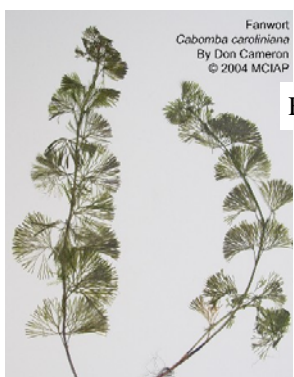
I. If the leaves are finely divided like a feather



Eurasian water milfoil

- It could be **Eurasian water milfoil** if the feather like leaves are arranged in whorls of 3-6 around the stem, the ends of leaves are blunt, like they have been cut with scissors and the leaves fall limp around the stem when removed from the water. Beware This suspect is notorious for looking like some of our native milfoils

- Suspect **Parrot Feather** if the stiff, feather like leaves are arranged in whorls of 4-6 and the tops growing above the water look like tiny fir trees



Fanwort



Fanwort Leaf



Parrot Feather



II. Are the leaves finely divided like a fan?

- Suspect **Fanwort** if the fan like leaves appear on the stem in pairs

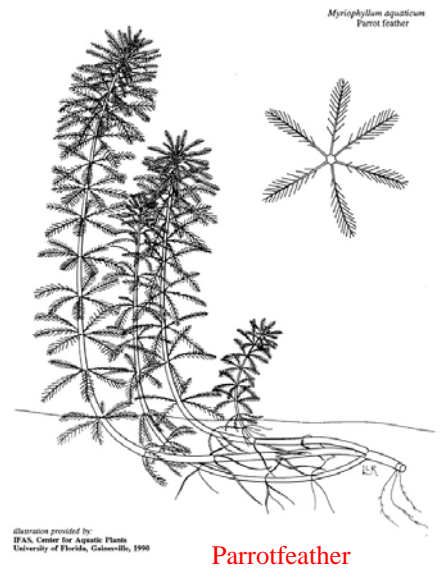
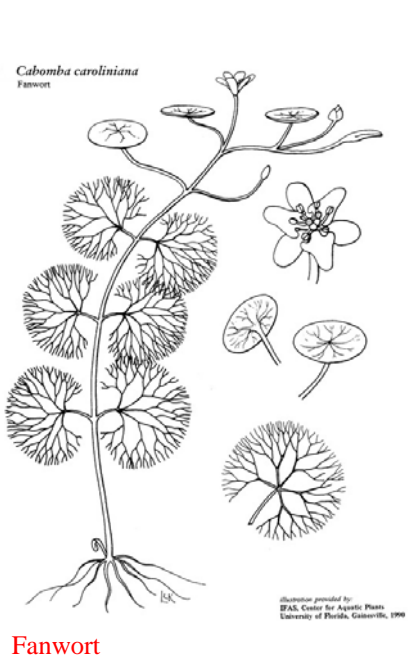
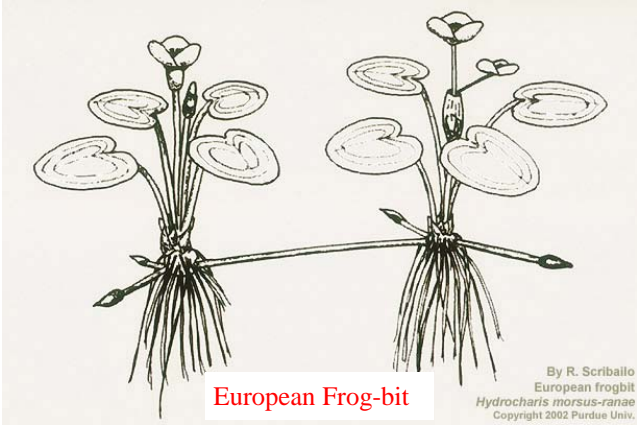
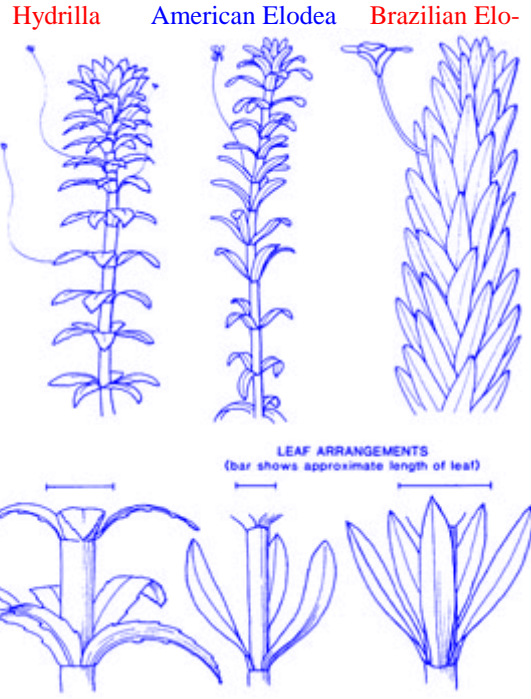
C. Lasagne Leaves



Curly-Leaf Pondweed

- Suspect **Curly-Leaf Pondweed** if the submerged, reddish green leaves have distinct wavy edges like lasagne noodles

# More Details to Help Solve the Mystery



This game was adapted from the "Quick Key" by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants with liberal use of images from the following websites

- Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants: [aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html](http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html)
- Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants [www.mciap.org](http://www.mciap.org)
- Washinton Water Quality Program [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/plants.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/plants.html)
- Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/targetplants/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/targetplants/)

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