



# Didymo WATCH

## How to Identify Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Single cell

Photo Credit: Eugene Stroemer

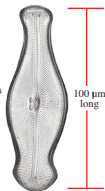


Photo Credit: Nicholas Bach



Color ranges from brown to white

Filaments can be 2-3 feet (61-91 cm) long in flowing water

Forms globular clumps or mats

Looks like snot, feels like wet wool



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**<sup>™</sup>

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network based on a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## General Characteristics

- Can form extensive blooms that cover the bottom of lakes and rivers
- Often found along shorelines subject to wave action
- Surface of mats often whitewashed; look similar to shredded tissue paper

## ***Didymo or “Rock Snot”***

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) or “rock snot” is a brownish alga that can form thick mats on river bottoms and shorelines. Mats can reduce bottom dwelling organisms thereby affecting fish diets and reproduction. In its invasive form, didymo looks like snot, but feels like wet wool or fiberglass insulation. Likely native to Lake Superior and parts of Canada, around 1990 an invasive form spread to some Western rivers and eastward from the Mid-Atlantic to Quebec. It is especially invasive in New Zealand.

Recreational anglers can spread didymo that gets imbedded in felt soles of boots, waders, and field gear. It can survive for days out of water under moist conditions. Eradicating infestations is impossible. Your actions and your help in reporting new infestations are vital for preventing its spread.

### ***What you can do***

- **Learn** to recognize didymo (see back cover).
- **Avoid** using felt-soled boots, the most likely way it spreads.
- **Remove** visible algae, aquatic plants, animals, and mud from waders, hip boots, dip nets, and field gear before transport.
- **Drain** lake or river water from bilge, livewell, and motor before leaving access.
- **Rinse** waders, hip boots, and gear with hot water, or soak in 5% salt (2 cup/3 gal) for 30 minutes followed by a tap water rinse, **AND/OR**
- **Dry** gear for five days or more before reuse.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed container with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program in Manitowoc, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR in Madison, (608) 266-6437; or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland, (715) 682-6185.

### ***REMINDER: Know the rules!***

**Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession and transport of invasive aquatic plants and animals. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish, or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.**