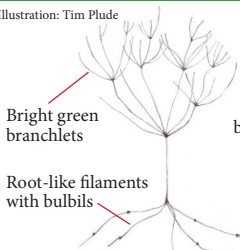




Starry Stonewort WATCH

How to Identify Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Illustration: Tim Plude



Bright green branchlets

Root-like filaments with bulbils

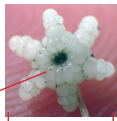


Photo: Paul Skawinski

bulbil

(3-5 mm wide)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of **invasive** species.
Clean **all** recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

General Characteristics

- Usually bright green and smooth
- Star-shaped bulbils (see photo) are attached to clear, root-like filaments
- Length of leaf-like branchlets can be highly variable on a single plant

Starry Stonewort

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is a large, submerged plant-like algae that can quickly form dense mats in lakes and ponds. These mats can interfere with boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, swimming and other recreation. Starry stonewort may choke out native plant communities and impact spawning activities of some fish species.

Native to Europe and Asia, starry stonewort was first observed in the St. Lawrence River in 1978. This species can spread overland to new waters by clinging to watercraft, trailers, and equipment. Only male starry stonewort has been documented in the United States, so no “seeds” are produced. It produces small, starchy growths called bulbils, and these bulbils or fragments of the stem can spread starry stonewort to new locations.

Eradicating established starry stonewort infestations is nearly impossible. Your actions and your help in reporting new infestations are vital for preventing its spread.

What you can do:

- **Learn** to recognize starry stonewort (see back cover).
- **Inspect & Remove** visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, and trailer before transport.
- **Drain** lake or river water from bilge, livewell, and motor before leaving access.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash.
- **Rinse** boat and equipment with high pressure, hot water (140°F for 10 sec), **OR** **Dry** everything for five days before reuse.
- **Report** new sightings – note the exact location, wrap a specimen in a wet paper towel and seal in a plastic bag, and then call the WI DNR (608) 267-3531, WI Sea Grant (920) 683-4697, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (715) 682-6185 or (608) 783-8434.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings. While Wisconsin’s NR40 laws prohibit the transport of invasive species, an exception is made for identification and disposal purposes. Contact the WI DNR for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish, or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.