

Helping Lake Colby

Eurasian watermilfoil forms thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats at the surface, making boating, swimming, and fishing difficult or impossible. Plants spread by small fragments that “hitchhike” on watercraft and are then introduced to new waters. Once a water body is infested, controlling these aggressive invaders is very difficult and very expensive.

For Lake Colby, controlling milfoil is the highest priority.

- Please avoid boating through weed-infested areas, as your wake and propeller action can increase fragmentation and therefore spread the milfoil.
- Try to keep wake action near shallow areas to a minimum.
- Collect floating milfoil and discard it on land.
- Avoid areas with diver-down flags—there will be men underwater harvesting milfoil when these flags are up.
- If you visit Little Colby:
 - do not use a motor: the entire pond is infested with large milfoil plants that motors fragment
 - Inspect your boat before returning into the main lake
- Tell your friends about how to prevent spreading milfoil and pass on this brochure.

What does milfoil look like?

- It is a submerged plant that grows horizontally when it reaches the surface, creating a mat
- It grows from early spring when it appears brighter and larger than the other lake plants
- The stem ranges from pale pink to reddish brown
- It has feathery leaves, with more than 10 “feathers” on each stem
- The growing tips are usually red
- The ends of the leaf appear to have been snipped
- Three to five leaves grow in a whorl around the stem
- It goes limp around the stem when out of water
- Plants in Lake Colby are harvested (at great cost) by divers each year, so the plants are usually smaller and submerged
- Little Colby is not harvested yet so the plants reach the surface and are larger and multi-stemmed
- The picture on the front and interior of this brochure will help you identify it



Lake Colby Association

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Fishermen and Boaters

**Lake Colby is a
milfoil infected
lake!**



Eurasian Water Milfoil is in Lake Colby. Unless careful, you could infect other lakes when you re-launch your boat.

Most Adirondack lakes remain free of this invasive plant. Please read this brochure for what you can do to prevent cross-infections.

Eurasian Water Milfoil can destroy a lake—you can help



Eurasian Water Milfoil

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL HAS INVADED MANY ADIRONDACK LAKES

Eurasian watermilfoil is currently reported in Upper, Middle, and Lower Saranac Lakes, Fish Creek Ponds, Floodwood Pond, Copperas Pond, Follensby Clear Pond, Lake Flower, Lake Kiwassa, Oseetah Lake, Meacham Lake and others throughout the region, including Lake Colby.

This non-native plant overwhelms native plants, eventually forming a thick surface mat that suffocates a lake, destroys fishing, and promotes algae growth. Swimming, boating, fishing, and all other water sports can be its victim.

Once in a lake, Eurasian milfoil can never be fully eradicated, and control is costly. Lake Colby is in its fifth year of harvesting and matting. Four tons were removed this year alone!

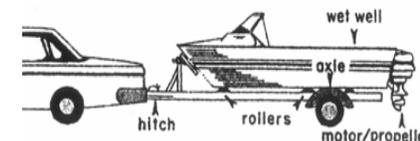
You could spread this plague

If you launch your boat here you can later infect other lakes when you re-launch. Waters such as Lake Placid, Long Lake, Rollins Pond, Hoel Pond, Buck Pond, Rainbow Lake, Lake Kushaqua, Barnum Pond, Mountain Pond, Upper and Lower St. Regis Lakes, Spitfire Lake, Osgood Pond, Tupper Lake, St. Regis Canoe Area and many others ARE NOT yet reported to have aquatic invasive plants.

Milfoil hides in wheel housings of trailers, wrapped around propellers, between trailer pads and your boat, etc.

So, before you launch and as you leave:

- **INSPECT** boat, trailer, tackle, downriggers, anchors, centerboards, rudders, rollers, axles, (i.e., all boat parts and all equipment inside and outside the boat) carefully before entering and when leaving any waterbody.
- **REMOVE** mud, plants and plant fragments from all surfaces and cavities and discard on dry land away from the waterbody.
- **DRAIN** live wells, bilge, transom, and motor away from the water before entering and when leaving any waterbody.
- **EMPTY** bait buckets on land away from the water. Never release live bait into a waterbody or transport animals from one waterbody to another.
- **WASH** boat and equipment with high pressure water (preferably hot water, 140F, if possible) and flush water through the motor's cooling system. Leave the boat and equipment out of water for 3 to 14 days (plant fragments can live for days out of water).



WHERE TO LOOK FOR MILFOIL

Milfoil hides:

- Under trailer pads
- In wheel housings
- Around props
- On anchors
- In bilge water

A one inch fragment can infect an entire lake!