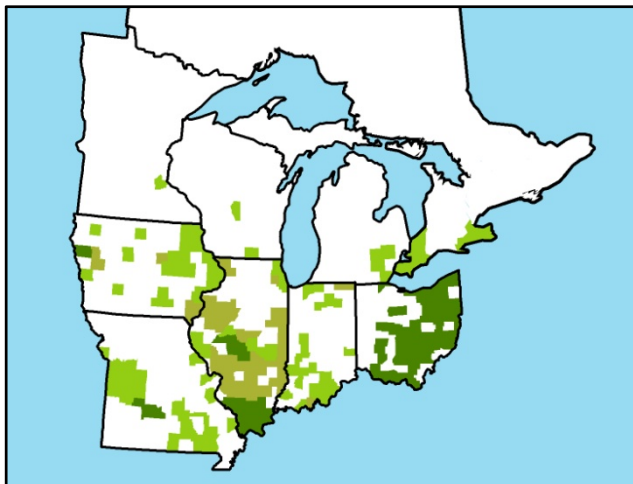


BRITTLE WATERNYMPH

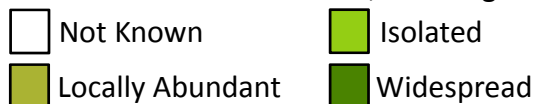
Najas minor

Description: Brittle waternymph, sometimes called minor naiad, is a submersed, annual forb. Slender stems grow up to 4 feet long and are highly branched. Opposite leaves are stiff, curled, and linear with prominent teeth. Leaves grow 1-2 inches long. Small flowers form in the axils of the leaves in late spring and early summer. Brittle waternymph's tiny purple seeds are spindle-shaped and germinate in early spring. The plant can also spread from plant fragments; as its name suggests, the plant is very brittle and fragments break off easily.

Ecological threat: Brittle waternymph invades slow-moving alkaline streams, ponds, and lakes in the US. It spreads quickly through seed and plant fragments that attach to waterfowl and boats. It can form dense stands that displace native aquatic vegetation and impede recreational water use. It is reported to have out-competed other exotics, including hydrilla.



Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario



Native Range: Europe

Current North American Range: Present in the eastern, southeastern, and midwestern United States.

Brittle waternymph is **prohibited** in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

For information on **aquatic plant management**, see http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_21.pdf.

Photo credits: Top - Kim Bogenschutz, IA DNR; Bottom - Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

**Early detection and rapid response can help
stop the spread!**