



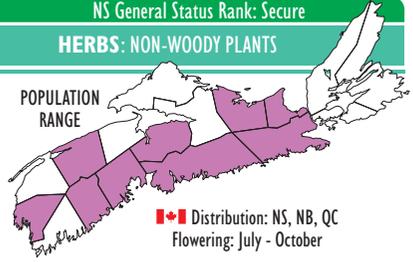
## Low Water-Milfoil

*Myriophyllum humile*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION RANGE



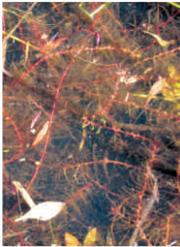
Above water branches

© DAVID MAZEROLLE



Fine, branching underwater leaves

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Underwater leaves and red stems

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Flowers in leaf axils

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**SIZE:** Up to 1 m long.

**LEAVES:** Underwater leaves are feathery and very slender with fine segments branching in 5 to 12 pairs from the main stem (pinnately divided). They are usually over 1 cm long and alternately arranged along the stem, although plants often also have opposite or whorled leaves. Branches above the water have modified leaves (bracts) that are entire (instead of divided) and fleshier. They are typically green but can take on a brownish or reddish color.

**STEM:** The stems are slender, weak, smooth and often branched. They are green, reddish-brown or bright red (typically turn red later in the season).

**FLOWERS:** Four-parted and inconspicuous. They grow above or under the water at the base of the leaves where they attach to the branches (leaf axils). The flowers are mostly located near the ends of the branches.

**FRUITS:** Shiny, smooth (or sometimes barely roughened) four-parted nutlets that split into 0.7-1.2 mm long seeds.

**NOTES:** This plant is typically aquatic and submersed in water, but can occasionally be found growing on wet soil at the water's edge.

### Habitat:

Shallow acidic waters and shores of lakes, streams, and rivers on peaty, sandy, or muddy soils.

**Interesting point:** Water-Milfoil species are fragmenting plants, meaning that when cut or broken, the fragments may float away and take root elsewhere, creating new colonies. The scientific name for the genus (*Myriophyllum*) alludes to the highly divided submersed leaves and comes from the Greek myrios, meaning "countless" and phyllon meaning "leaf".

**Similar species:** Low Water-Milfoil is readily distinguished from NS's five other Water-Milfoil species by the combination of its smooth fruits, often reddish stems and ability to live in or out of water. Farwell's Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum farwellii*) is completely aquatic and has rough fruits that are longer (2 to 2.5 mm). Water-Milfoils can also be similar to many bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) but are distinguished by their lack of bladders.

### Farwell's Water-Milfoil

