

June 29, 2011

**Quarantine Name:** Eurasian Watermilfoil, EWM

**Quarantine Type:** Light, temporary quarantine

**Quarantine Order:** MTQ-2011-01

**Reason for Quarantine:** The purpose of the quarantine is to prevent and minimize the introduction of EWM into Montana water bodies not currently infested, contain existing infestations, and prevent and minimize the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). Eurasian watermilfoil is a state listed noxious weed. The plant is an extremely aggressive, non-native aquatic plant currently listed as a Montana noxious weed that poses a serious threat to Montana's rivers, lakes, and irrigation infrastructure.

Eurasian watermilfoil was first detected in the state of Montana in 2007 in Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs. In late summer and early fall of 2011, EWM was identified at Toston Dam, Fort Peck Reservoir, Jefferson River, and the upper and lower Missouri River. Anthropogenic introduction and spread of EWM occurs when plant fragments become entrained on watercraft and boat trailers. High recreational use and movement of watercraft between bodies of water both within the state and between states creates a high risk of introduction and spread.

**Pest:** Eurasian Watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*

**Regulated Area:** Missouri River Basin and associated roads and transportation corridors. The quarantine will be amended as new infestations are identified through confirmed survey and monitoring and will be posted to the Montana Department of Agriculture's website at <http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/noxiousweeds.asp>, <http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/aquatics.asp>, and <http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/quarantine.asp>.

**Regulated Articles:** Eurasian watermilfoil and associated aquatic sediment.

**Restrictions:**

1. Owners, operators, or persons in possession of a watercraft shall not move or transport Eurasian watermilfoil.
2. Regulated articles shall not be moved by any person into or within the State of Montana, except by written permission or permit of the department for the purpose of identification, education, or research.
3. EWM materials collected for the purpose of identification, education, or research will be handled in such a way as to prevent introduction to the environment. Under no

circumstances shall EWM be intentionally, deliberately, accidentally or inadvertently introduced into a Montana body of water, wetland, or area immediately surrounding a body of water or wetland regardless of the value of the education/training or research being contemplated or conducted.

- a. The department should be notified that samples are being transported, shipped, or otherwise delivered to the department or a county weed district for identification. Samples are to be surrendered to the department and will be appropriately destroyed after confirmatory identification.
- b. A permit is necessary to use EWM for education/training or research purposes. Individuals or entities must submit, in writing, a request for possession of EWM that includes:
  - i. Name of individual(s) or entity responsible for education/training or research, the primary contact person the department will work with, and the responsible party for ensuring compliance with permit conditions and restrictions;
  - ii. Intended purpose and goals of the education/training or research;
  - iii. Duration of possession of quarantine materials;
  - iv. How and where samples are acquired or collected;
  - v. Volume of plant materials and aquatic sediment to be collected;
  - vi. Conditions under which the materials will be maintained and contained; and
  - vii. Management and handling practices to be implemented, including appropriate disposal method at the termination of permitted activity.

No acquisition or collection of plant materials or education/training or research may begin prior to securing a permit. Conditions and requirements listed in a permit must be followed. Permittees must contact the department and confirm completion or conclusion of the education/training or research and that all EWM plant materials and aquatic sediments have been properly disposed of.

All permits are subject to inspection by the department.

Authorizing authority for permits is the Montana State Plant Regulatory Official. Permits may be obtained free of charge by contacting the Noxious Weed Program Manager within the Pest Management Bureau at 406-444-3140; [dburch@mt.gov](mailto:dburch@mt.gov) or [agr@mt.gov](mailto:agr@mt.gov), 302 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-0201 (physical address) or PO Box 200201, Helena, MT 59620-0201 (shipping address).

4. All plant material, plant fragments, or plant reproductive structures; associated aquatic sediment; and other material that may include EWM material are to be removed from the exterior of a watercraft before entering a Montana body of water and immediately after leaving a body of water known to be infested with EWM as noted on the Department of Agriculture's website at <http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/aquatics.asp>.
5. All plant material, plant fragments, plant reproductive structures; aquatic sediment; and other material in containers, receptacles and interior watercraft areas that hold water such

as ballast tanks or live-wells must be drained or cleaned and be free of EWM plant material and aquatic sediment before entering a Montana body of water and immediately after leaving a body of water known to be infested with EWM as noted on the Department of Agriculture's website at <http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/aquatics.asp>.

6. All quarantine plant material and associated aquatic sediment removed from the exterior or interior of the watercraft must be disposed of properly to prevent the introduction of the material into a water resource, including wetlands or surrounding area that would allow EWM to remain viable. Disposal of quarantine plant material and associated aquatic sediment into any body of water, wetland or its shoreline is prohibited.
7. All watercraft must stop and submit to an inspection at invasive species inspection stations.

**Definitions:**

Certificate and Certificate of Inspection means a document issued or authorized to be issued by the department of agriculture as having been inspected for and found free of aquatic invasive plant materials and associated aquatic sediment. Certificates of inspection are effective from the time of inspection until the watercraft has launched or until the watercraft trailer has entered a body of water. Inspections may be accepted from other authorized officials from another state conducting aquatic invasive plant inspections that meet state of Montana standards as established by the department. Similarly, an inspection conducted by an official authorized by the department of agriculture, such as an official from another state agency, a federal agency, a county weed district, or a conservation district, that meets the Montana standards as established by the department may also be accepted.

Department means the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Director means the Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture or his or her authorized representative.

Inspector means an employee of the Department of Agriculture authorized to conduct an aquatic invasive plant inspection or an official recognized and authorized by the department to conduct an aquatic invasive plant inspection.

Free Of means that plants, plant parts, including reproductive parts, sediment or other material that may contain, house, or have EWM are not attached, wedged, entrained, tangled, clinging, or otherwise present.

Moved (Move, Movement) means transported, received for transport, shipped, offered for shipment, carried or allowed to be moved or shipped or other means of transferring material from one point or location to another.

Person means an individual, company, or partnership.

Plant Material means a plant or plant part, including reproductive structures.


Trailer means a structure used to transport or launch watercraft.

Watercraft means any recreational conveyance used to navigate on or in water, including, but not limited, to a boat, canoe, kayak, raft, and jet ski.

**Length of Quarantine:** This is a short term, temporary quarantine; a quarantine lasting up to one year. The quarantine will be in place until a management area designation or designations under 80-7-1008 and 80-7-1010, MCA is/are adopted.

**Attachments:** None

  
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Ron de Yong  
Director, Montana Department of Agriculture

  
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Date