

# *Myriophyllum spicatum*

## *The danger that lies beneath*

### Where does it come from?

*Myriophyllum spicatum* L. originates from Europe, Asia and North America. It was introduced as an aquarium plant. It invades all water bodies and is potentially harmful in slow flowing water bodies such as rivers, ponds and dams.



www.korseby.net



www.caes.state.ct.us

### What does it look like?

It is a rooted aquatic plant submerged except for the leafless flowering shoots. Stems can grow to 3m in length. Leaves are feathery occurring in whorls. Roots are few and on lower parts of the stem



D. Sharp

### Why is it dangerous?

It can reproduce from seed and fragmentation of the stems. It can be confused with indigenous species ( *Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Lagarosiphon* species) and with other invasive submerged species



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### What does it do?

Spiked water milfoil causes major impacts on water use. Reduces flow in drainage canals, interferes with navigation of boats and fishing activities and other recreational activities. Displaces indigenous vegetation and adversely impacts sportfish populations. Economic and tourism impacts can be staggering. It is a category 1 species under CARA.



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



Patron in Chief:  
Nelson Mandela

## Who is fighting the problem?

The working for water programme spearheads this fight against IAP's. The programme was launched in 1995 and is administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs, in partnership with the department of Agriculture and other key partners.



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## How do we work?

Working for water considers the development of people as an essential element of the continued protection of our valued resources. Short term contract jobs are created through clearing activities with the emphasis on 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disabled. By creating an enabling environment for skills training, it is investing in the development of communities.

## YOU AND THE LAW

Our laws relating to IAP's are aimed at:

- Preventing introductions of potential invasive species
  - Managing species that have become invasive in the country
1. Unlawful to bring alien species into SA Without a permit
  2. Unlawful to sell certain IAP's
  3. Unlawful to have certain IAP's on property
  4. Unlawful to grow certain IAP's in sensitive areas (wetlands, riparian)



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### Further information:

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