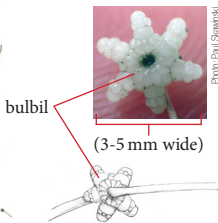
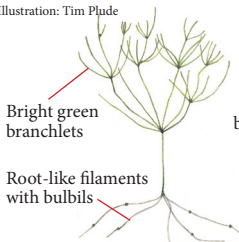




# Starry Stonewort WATCH

## How to Identify Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Illustration: Tim Plude



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of **invasive** species.  
Clean **all** recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## General Characteristics

- Usually bright green and smooth
- Star-shaped bulbils (see photo) are attached to clear, root-like filaments
- Length of leaf-like branchlets can be highly variable on a single plant



## Starry Stonewort

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is a large, submerged plant-like algae that can form dense mats in lakes and ponds. These mats can interfere with boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, swimming and other recreation. Starry stonewort may choke out native plant communities. Native to Europe and Asia, starry stonewort was first observed in the St. Lawrence River in 1978. This species can spread overland to new waters by clinging to watercraft, trailers, and equipment. Only male starry stonewort has been documented in the United States, so no “seeds” are produced. It produces small, starchy growths called bulbils, and these bulbils or fragments of the stem can spread starry stonewort to new locations. Eradicating established starry stonewort infestations is nearly impossible. Your actions and your help in reporting new infestations are vital for preventing its spread.

### What you can do:

- **Learn** to recognize starry stonewort (see back cover).

### Follow Minnesota aquatic invasive species laws:

- **Clean** all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors and other recreational equipment before leaving access.
- **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs *before leaving water access. Keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.*
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash.

### Also recommended:

- **Spray** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water, or
- **Rinse** with very hot water, or
- **Dry** for at least 5 days.

Report new sightings – note exact location; wrap a plant fragment in a wet paper towel, place in a sealed plastic bag, chill or refrigerate; and call a Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Specialist (see [www.mndnr.gov/invasives/contacts.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/invasives/contacts.html)) or 651-259-5100.

### REMINDER: Know the rules!

It is legal to transport specimens in a sealed container directly to a Minnesota DNR office for identification. Go to [www.mndnr.gov/ais](http://www.mndnr.gov/ais) for more information. Protect your property and our waters.

Adapted from the University of Wisconsin Environmental Resources Center

