

# Farwell's Water-milfoil

## *Myriophyllum farwellii*

### Description

Farwell's Water-milfoil is an aquatic herb that may grow to 1 foot (0.3 m) or more in length and can be found rooted to the substrate or as fragments that are floating or washed to the shore. As in most related species, the leaves have a feather-like, finely-dissected appearance, with each leaf having an elongate central axis and numerous slender segments that project outward in an ascending manner along the length of the axis. This species also shares with others the minute (1-3 mm) 4-sided fruit cluster that breaks up into 1-seeded portions. Identification of species in this genus can be difficult, and Farwell's Water-milfoil can be best distinguished by the following combination of features: the consistently submersed leaves (other species may become emersed in flowering), the leaf arrangement that is sometimes alternately arranged and sometimes more-or-less oppositely arranged (in contrast to the strictly whorled arrangement in most species), and particularly the fruits, which have 2 low ridges along the length of their outer face, with the ridges roughened by minute projections (most other species have smooth outer faces).

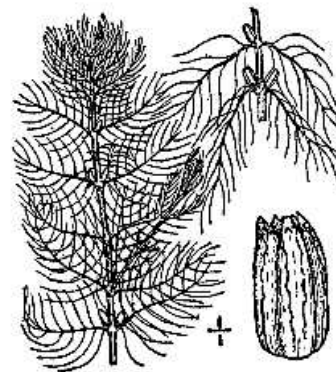


Photo source: USDA NRCS PLANTS

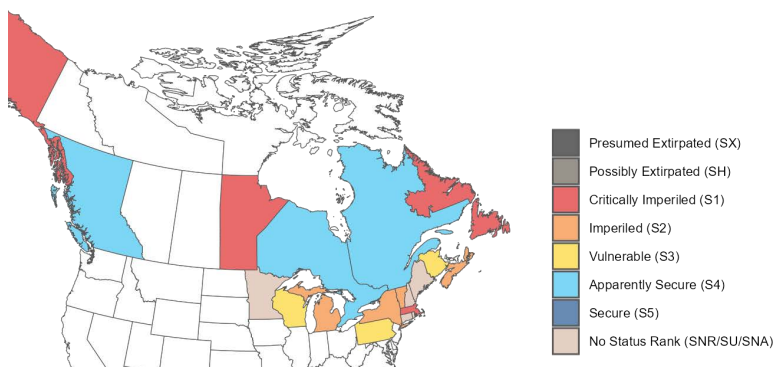
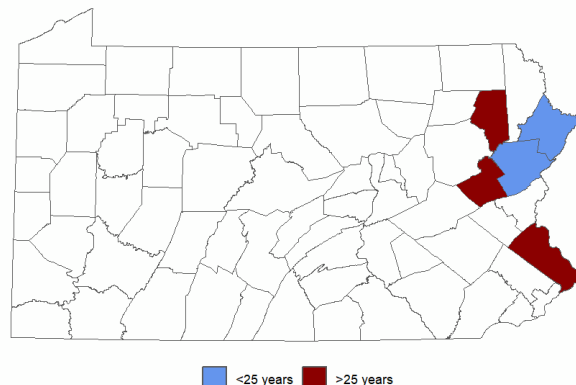
### Distribution & Habitat

Farwell's Water-milfoil has a transcontinental range across the cooler regions of North America. In Pennsylvania, it represents a northerly species and has been documented historically in a few northeastern counties. The species grows in lakes and ponds.

#### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025

Farwell's Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum farwellii*)



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Farwell's Water-milfoil to be a species of special concern, based on the limited number of locations that have been recently documented. It has a PA legal rarity status of Endangered and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare.

### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Farwell's Water-milfoil and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers and protecting the natural hydrology around lakes and ponds, controlling invasive species, and avoiding the indiscriminate use of aquatic herbicides.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G5** – Globally secure; **S3** – Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Rhoads, A. F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.