



European waterclover floating in deep water.

BCK CISMA

February 2020

NOT SO LUCKY!

St. Patrick's Day is filled with ways to increase your luck. Chase a leprechaun or follow a rainbow to a pot of gold. Find a four-leaf clover in a sea of three-leaf covers. All is fun and games until you find a four-leafed clover that isn't quite like the others.

European waterclover is an aquatic fern that was first brought over from Europe for water gardens and aquariums. Like many aquatic invasives, it has escaped into the wild and now causes harm.

European waterclover is a rooted plant that can grow in water depths of almost a foot. Its leaves grow from the stem and fan out into four leaflets. Each leaflet resembles a shamrock. In deeper water the leaflets float, but in shallow areas and on land they stick up. The leaves have smooth edges and lack hairs. Since European waterclover is a fern, it does not produce flowers or seeds. Instead it produces sporocarps to reproduce. Up to three sporocarps are formed at the base of the leaf. Sporocarps can survive harsh winters and remain viable for decades.

From either the sporocarp or by a piece of its root, European waterclover will grow in the slow-moving waters of

ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and ditches. Few reports have been made in the state of Michigan. However, due to its early productivity, ability to form dense colonies, and the sporocarps longevity, European waterclover is on Michigan's invasive species watch list.

European waterclover has not been found in this area, so prevention and reporting new sites is of the utmost importance. The first and best line of defense against any aquatic invasive species is prevention. Always purchase native species for water gardens and aquariums, and never dispose of them into the wild. European waterclover can also spread via boating and fishing equipment. It is important that every watercraft user and angler cleans boats and equipment, drains bilge or other water, dries boats and equipment, and disposes of unwanted bait in the trash before leaving the launch area. It is against the law to transport watercraft with aquatic plants attached, to transport a watercraft without draining all water, or to release unused bait into the water.

BCK CISMA this month in numbers

- 1** active outreach events
- 40** impressions
- 14** passive outreach efforts
- 4,900** impressions
- 2** publications with articles
- 60,000** impressions

Meeting Updates

The next BCK CISMA Meeting is Wednesday, April 29th from 1-3pm at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Auditorium.

Shoreline Symposium
Friday, April 24th
@ Paw Paw District Library

RSVP by April 15th with
2020shorelinesymposium.EventBrite.com



European waterclover with its roots and sporocarps.

We're Hiring!!

The BCK CISMA has invasive species seasonal crew members and an invasive crayfish technician positions open. For more information contact Fallon or visit <http://www.barrycd.org/home/get-involved/jobs/>

BCK CISMA is dedicated to combating the threat of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have invasive species concerns within those counties, please contact Fallon Januska at fallon.januska@macd.org or 269-908-4136.



Barry • Calhoun • Kalamazoo

BCKCISMA
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area