

Starry Trek

Reference Guide

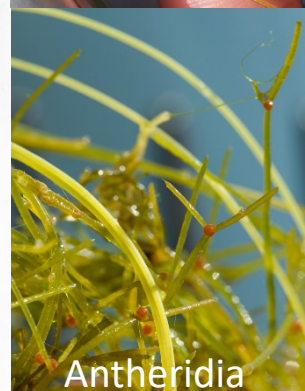


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Starry stonewort keys to ID:

- Grass-like appearance
- Smooth, thin stems
- Branchlets in whorls of 5-8
- Forked tips of branchlets are asymmetrical
- Star-shaped bulbils may be observed
- Small, orange spheres (antheridia) may be present

Starry stonewort photos © Paul Skawinski, Nicole Kovar, Dave Hansen, Minnesota DNR, Larkin Lab



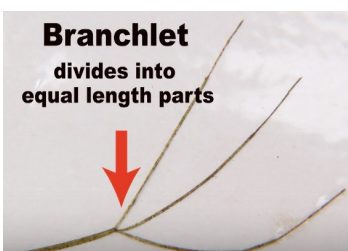
Native lookalikes:

Chara (muskgrass)



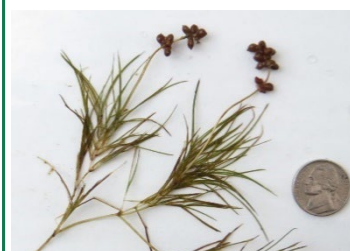
- Rough stems
- Musky odor
- Branchlets not forked at tips

Nitella (stonewort)



- Branchlets symmetrically forked
- Appears limp out of water

Sago pondweed



- Leaves branch profusely
- Clusters of egg-shaped fruit may be present

Water stargrass



- Alternate leaves
- Narrow, flat leaves

Native photos © Paul Skawinski, UW-Extension

In addition to searching for starry stonewort, keep your eye out for these other common invasive species:

Eurasian watermilfoil

- Four leaves per whorl
- 12 to 20 leaflet pairs per leaf



Northern watermilfoil

- Four leaves per whorl
- 4 to 11 leaflet pairs per leaf



Zebra and quagga mussels

- Up to 2 inches long
- Striped patterns on shells
- Shells are D-shaped with a very flat or slightly curved edge



Native mussels

- Adults are larger than zebra or quagga mussels
- Shells have more oblong shape



USGS; Wescott Phillip, USFWS

Curly-leaf pondweed

- Thin, submerged leaves have distinct teeth and wavy edges
- Leaves attach directly to the stem but do not wrap (or clasp) around it
- Produces turions that look like small, greenish-brown pinecones



Clasping-leaf pondweed

- Leaves alternate along the stem
- Leaves are wide and wavy but don't have teeth
- Leaves clasp around stem



Paul Skawinski

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