



EUROPEAN FROGBIT (*HYDROCHARIS MORSUS-RANAE*) IN WISCONSIN

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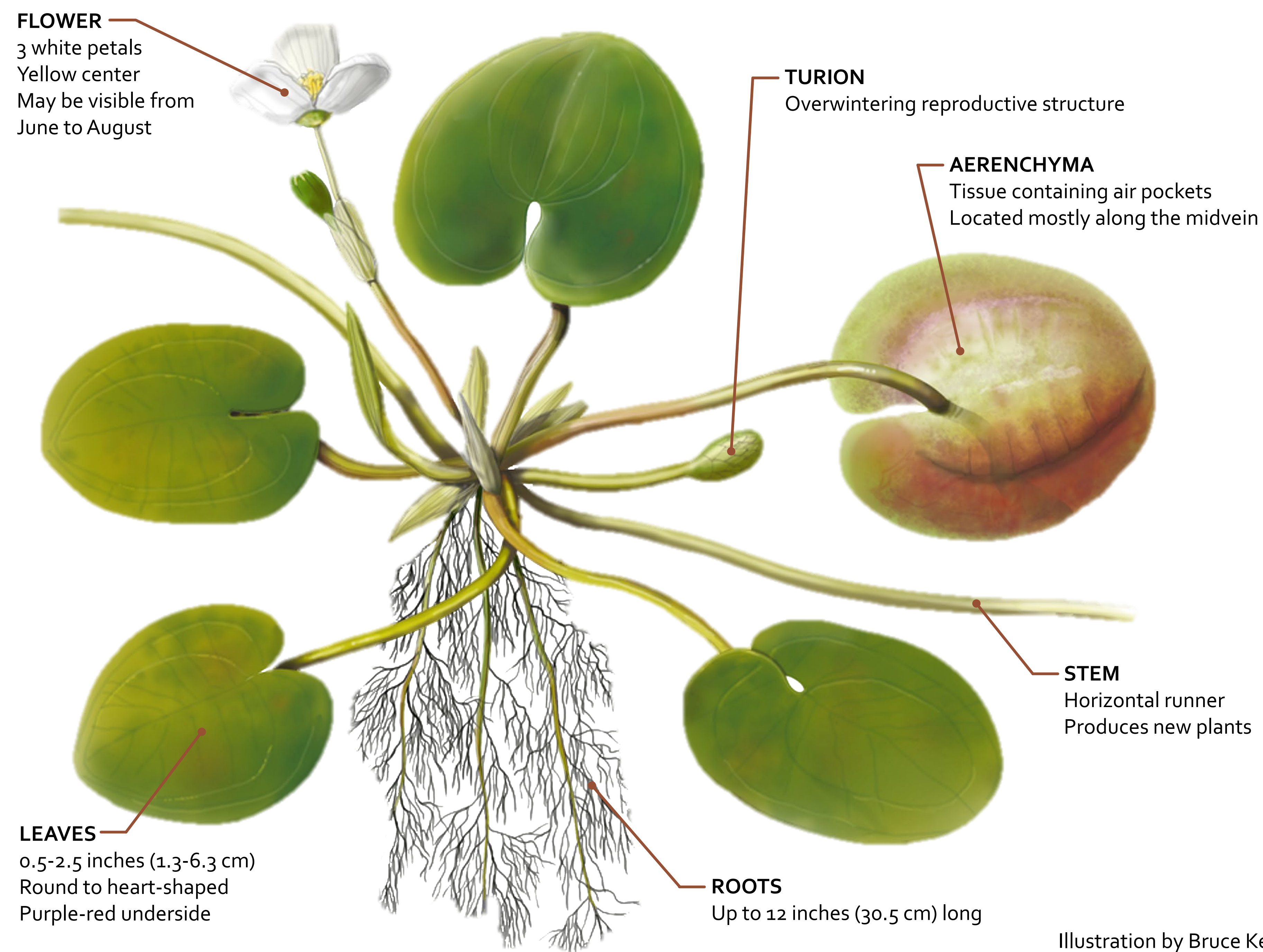
NORTHEAST REGION AIS COORDINATOR - WISCONSIN DNR

MATT PUZ

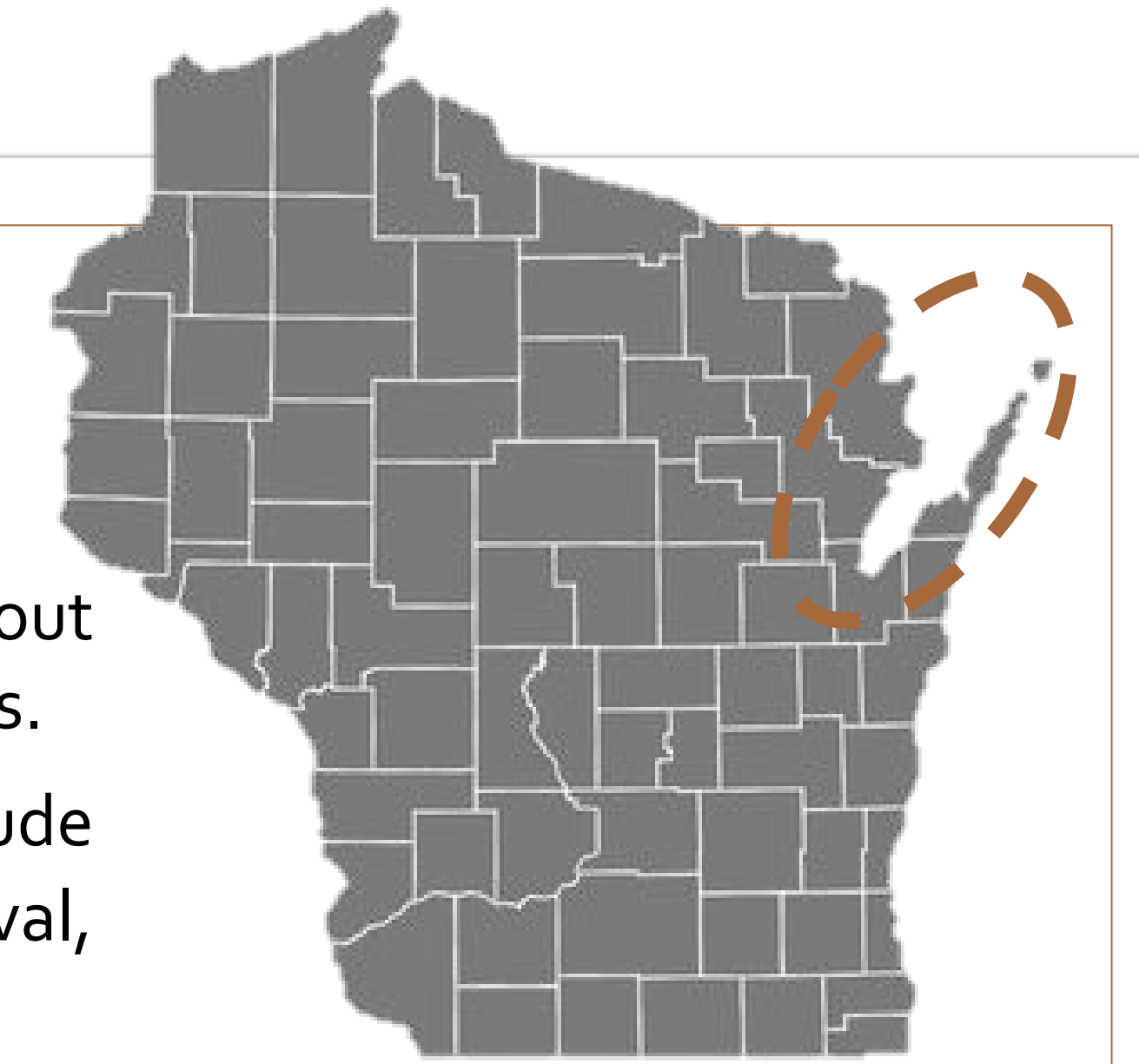
WETLAND INVASIVE PLANT SPECIALIST - WISCONSIN DNR

1. THE PROBLEM

- European frogbit (EFB) is a free-floating aquatic plant resembling a miniature lily – *see figure for more identification tips.*
- It prefers shallow, quiet, or slow-moving water such as wetlands, ditches, and nearshore areas of lakes, rivers, and streams.
- It forms large colonies of dense, floating mats that can dramatically affect native aquatic life and limit recreational activities.
- EFB is regulated as an NR40 Prohibited Species meaning it is not widespread, is likely to cause environmental and/or economic harm, and eradication and prevention are feasible.
- EFB was first discovered in Wisconsin in an unnamed Green Bay tributary in Oconto County on July 18, 2021.



2. THE RESPONSE



- Early detection monitoring** has revealed significant populations throughout Marinette & Oconto Counties with satellite populations in Brown & Door Counties.
- Control** activities follow an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy and include manual removal, herbicide treatment (imazapyr), follow-up manual removal, pre/post-treatment monitoring, site prioritization, and adaptive management.
- Prevention** via education & outreach is a critical component of this response. Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN) Coordinators have been championing the prevention message by targeting high-risk pathways such as waterfowl hunters and boaters.
- Research** is a priority given the many information gaps that exist. The Great Lakes Commission is hosting the European Frogbit Collaborative which aims to connect people, science, and management to advance technology for EFB control.
- Partnerships** have been key to this unprecedented response. The Land & Water Conservation Departments of Marinette and Oconto Counties have been instrumental in implementing management actions in their respective counties where most of the populations are located. Numerous other local government agencies, DNR programs, non-profits, and a university comprise the EFB Response Team.

3. HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Practice the required prevention steps – *see figure.*
- Consider one or more of these decontamination options between waterbodies:
 - Spray with a bleach solution (~2.5 Tbs./gal. water)
 - Dry for 5 days
 - Use a hot water or steam pressure washer
 - Use a different set of clean equipment
- Become familiar with how to identify the species.
- Teach others about the species and why preventing the spread matters!
- Report it to your local AIS Coordinator if you suspect you've found a new population.
 - Collect a specimen, if possible.
 - Record the location.
 - Take detailed photos of the plant including identifying features and the surrounding landscape.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving YOU MUST:

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the spread of invasive species. It's the law.

*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."



Thank you to the following funders: