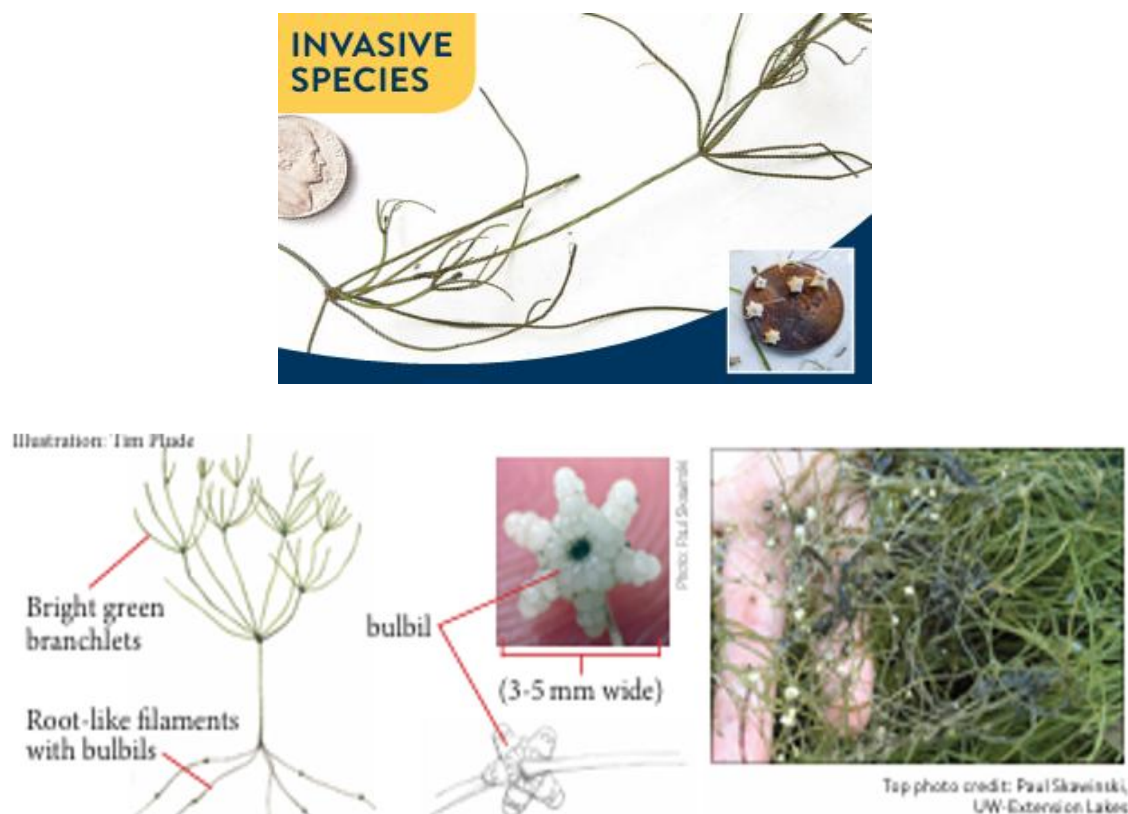


Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)



Minnesota origins: Starry stonewort, a non-native North America aquatic invasive species was first confirmed in Lake Koronis during 2015. Transmission via plant fragments brought into the state via trailered watercraft from infested waters is the probable cause. **Identification:** Starry stonewort has branchlets which are bright green and highly variable in length arranged in whorls around the stem with a unique distinguishing characteristic from native grass-like algae, the presence of star-shaped bulbils along its root-like filaments. **Reporting:** Wrap the plant in a wet paper towel, place in a sealed plastic bag, chill or refrigerate, and contact the DNR at www.mndnr.gov/ais or 651-259-5100. **Threat to the lake:** The impact of an infestation of Starry stonewort on a lake has not been determined, however it can interfere with recreational and other uses of the lake where it can produce dense mats at the water's surface and lead to displacement of native aquatic plants. The dense mats can be more extensive than those produced by native vegetation. **Management:** Herbicides can suppress the growth of Starry stonewort. Hand-pulling may reduce biomass in small areas. In the case of a newly discovered population with a limited distribution in a lake, mechanical harvesting is not recommended as it may create fragments that would speed the spread of the invasive plant within the lake. **Distribution:** Starry stonewort is believed to spread by distribution of bulbils, the star-like structures produced by the plant. It is critical to properly clean trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, dock lifts, anchors or any other water-related equipment to which these fragments may attach. In addition, drain all water from watercraft and bait buckets and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

References: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/outreach.html>