

Starry stonewort identification:

- Grass-like appearance
- Smooth, thin stems
- Branchlets in whorls of 5-8
- Forked tips of branchlets are asymmetrical
- Star-shaped bulbils (not always present)
- Small, orange spheres (antheridia) may be present (note: some native species have these too)



Starry stonewort photos © Paul Skawinski, Nicole Kovar, Dave Hansen, Minnesota DNR, Larkin Lab
Native photos © Paul Skawinski, UW-Extension

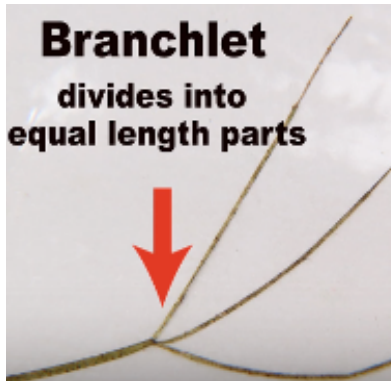
Native lookalikes:

Chara spp. (muskgrass)



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

Nitella spp. (stonewort)



- Branchlets have symmetric forked tips
- Appears limp out of water

Sago pondweed



- Alternate leaves, sometimes look clustered
- Round leaves resemble pine needles

Water stargrass



- Alternate leaves
- Narrow, flat leaves

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

Invasive Mystery Snails



Cipangopaludina chinensis

- Large as adults
 - Up to ~2 inches (*C. chinensis*) or ~1.5 inches (*C. georgiana*)
- May be solid brown (*C. chinensis*) or have 4 darker bands that follow the whorls (*C. georgiana*)
- Whorls form spire off to side



Callinina georgiana (syn. *Viviparous georgianus*)

Zebra Mussels



- Less than 2 inches long
- Striped patterns on shells
- Shells have one flattened edge
- D-shaped if turned sideways

Eurasian Watermilfoil

- Feather-like leaves
- Leaves whorl around stem in groups of 4
- Can count 12 or more leaflets per leaf if counting along one side



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