

# Cabomba caroliniana

Fanwort, Green cabomba, Carolina Fanwort, Fish grass

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater Ponds and Lakes

## Leaves



Graves Lovell



Look for mostly submerged leaves that are fan-shaped and branch-divided. Each leaf has up to 60 fragments and are opposite on the stem. Sometimes a few floating leaves appear that are small and diamond-shaped.

PLANT COMMUNITY	LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF SHAPE	LEAF EDGE
 EMERGENT	 ALTERNATE	 ELONGATE	 FEATHER DIVIDED
 FLOATING LEAF	 OPPOSITE	 BLADE	 FORK DIVIDED
 SUBMERSED	 WHORLED	 OVAL	 BRANCH DIVIDED

## Plant



Sandy Richard



Look for a submerged plant in water 1 to 3.5 m deep. Leaves may be rooted or free-floating. The upright stems grow from horizontal rhizomes (creeping stems).

## Stem



Robert Vedéki



Look for multiple tube-shaped stems that can reach lengths of over 2 m. Each stem has many branches.

## Seasonal Change



Troy Evans, Eastern Kentucky Univ, Bugwood.org



Look for small white flowers less than 13 mm long with 6 petals. Flowers float at the surface on stalks on the tips of the stems.

## Similar Species

Fanwort can be confused with bladderworts and milfoil plants. Check the leaf edge and arrangement closely! Milfoil plants have feather-divided leaves (fanwort's leaves are branch-divided). Bladderwort leaves are alternately arranged (fanwort's leaves are opposite).

## Did You Know?

Fanwort reproduces rapidly from fragments and from seeds. This plant has likely spread to non-native habitats from aquarium water dumped in local waterways.

If you think you found this species, call Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program: 207-783-7733 OR Department of Environmental Protection: 1-800-452-1942

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Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.