

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.