

Carolina fanwort

Cabomba caroliniana

Description

This species is listed on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list. Introduced as an aquarium plant.

Habit

Aquatic; submergent perennial; typically grows in water depths ranging from 1-3 m (3-10 ft).

Leaves

Vary, submergent leaves opposite, palmately, finely dissected, floating leaves alternate, entire, small.

Stems

May reach up to 2 m (6.5 ft) in length; grass green or olive green; sometime reddish-brown in color.

Flowers

White in color, 3 petals, 3 petal-like sepals, flowers emergent, less than 1/2 in (13 mm) in diameter.





Fruits and Seeds

2-4 leathery pods per flower, each 2-3 cm long and 1 mm wide, usually containing 3 seeds each.

Habitat

Found in lakes, ponds, occasionally slow-moving rivers or streams.

Reproduction

Southern species sold in aquarium trade. Germination of seed less likely in north; spreads vegetative parts which adhere to boats and waterfowl; may also be dispersed by currents.

Similar

Spineless hornwort or Coontail (*Ceratophyllum echinatum*) and Beck's water marigold (*Bidens beckii*) but do not have distinct petioles like Cabomba.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Herbicides such as Endothall and Fluridone provide excellent control. Also, water level draw downs have been successful as well as introducing grass carp.

Credits

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