

MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

# **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

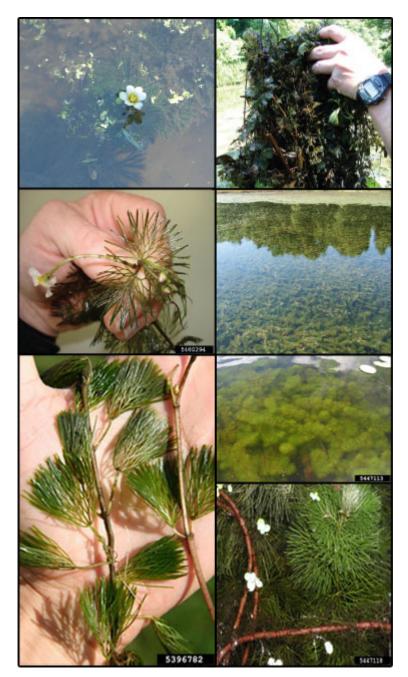
Vary, submergent leaves opposite, palmately, finely dissected, floating leaves alternate, entire, small.

#### 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.





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## **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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