

# Fanwort

## (*Cabomba caroliniana*)

**Habitat:** Aquatic  
**Family name:** Cabombaceae  
**Common name:** Fanwort



**Description:**  
 Fanwort is a submerged, sometimes floating, but often rooted, freshwater perennial plant with short, fragile rhizomes.



The erect shoots are upturned extensions of the horizontal rhizomes.

Shoots are grass-green to olive-green or sometimes reddish brown.

Fanwort flowers are white and small (less than 13 mm) in diameter, and are on stalks which arise from the tips of the stems.

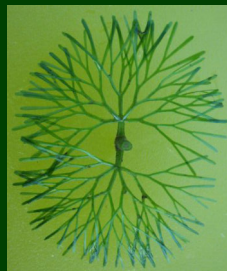


**Reproduction:** It produces by seed, but vegetative reproduction seems to be its main vehicle for spreading to new waters.



Stems become brittle in late summer, which causes the plant to break apart, facilitating its distribution and invasion of new water bodies.

Floating leaves, when present, are linear and inconspicuous, with an alternate arrangement. The leaves are of two types: submerged and floating.



The submerged leaves are finely divided and arranged in pairs on the stem.

They are less than 13 mm long and narrow (less than 6.4 mm).

The leaf blade attaches to the centre, where a slight constriction is seen.



Fanwort is commonly called Carolina fanwort, Carolina water shield, green cabomba, fanwort, fish grass, and Washington grass



Fanwort is known to achieve growth rates of up to 50 mm a day



Fanwort is an aquatic perennial herbaceous plant native to North and



South America. It is on the list of invasive alien species of union concern in the EU. This species grows rooted in the mud of stagnant to slow-flowing water, including

streams, smaller rivers, lakes, ponds, sloughs, and ditches.

