

# Invasive Aquatic Plant Volunteer Monitoring Program

## *Invasive Aquatic Plant Profile*

### Fanwort

*Cabomba caroliniana*

#### Biology:

A submerged bright green aquatic plant with two types of leaves. The submersed leaves are fan-like, opposite, and whorled. Floating lily-like leaves are alternate, linear, and one-half to one inch long. They are found on the water's surface during flower production. Flowers are small, whitish-pink, and emergent. This plant has a slender stem that is coated with a gelatinous slime. Fanwort flowers in late summer.

#### Habitat:

Frequently found in more acidic lakes, ponds, and quiet streams. Normally found in three to 10 feet of water. In deep lakes it can grow up to 20 feet long, surviving in water 30 feet deep.

#### Origin:

Native to the southern United States, and Latin and South America.

#### NY and Adirondack Range:

Found in shallow lakes on Long Island and lakes in the Catskills. Fanwort has been identified in Saratoga county in the Adirondack Park.

#### Spread:

Introduced to the wild as a discarded aquarium plant. Reproduction can occur by seed or fragmentation.

#### Problems:

The presence of fanwort has not had any major impacts on water-related activities in New York state. However, in other states it can clog drainage canals and freshwater streams preventing water flow and recreational activities. Fanwort has been known to form canopies and alter the ecosystem by crowding out other plants species.



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