

# Invasive Species Alert

## Carolina Fanwort

(*Cabomba caroliniana*)

\*Detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Submerged aquatic plant, rooted in the mud of stagnant or slow-flowing water
- Underwater leaves approximately 2 inches across and divided into fine branches
- Flowering branches grow above the water surface with diamond shaped leaves
- Flowers small and range from white to pale yellow
- Stem length usually less than 10 feet, but can reach 33 feet



Photo: Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Habitat:** This submerged aquatic plant roots itself into the mud of shallow, slow moving or stagnant freshwater ecosystems.



Photo: University of New Hampshire

**Native Range:** Southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and the southeastern United States

**Local Concern:** Dense mats alter oxygen and pH levels, reduce sunlight penetration, and interfere with recreational water use.



Photo: Jane Herbert, Michigan State University

**Means of Introduction:** Aquarium and water garden trades, recreational equipment

**Other Names:** Fanwort, fish grass, green cabomba, Carolina water-shield, Washington-plant, Washington grass

Report this species at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone