

Carolina Fanwort

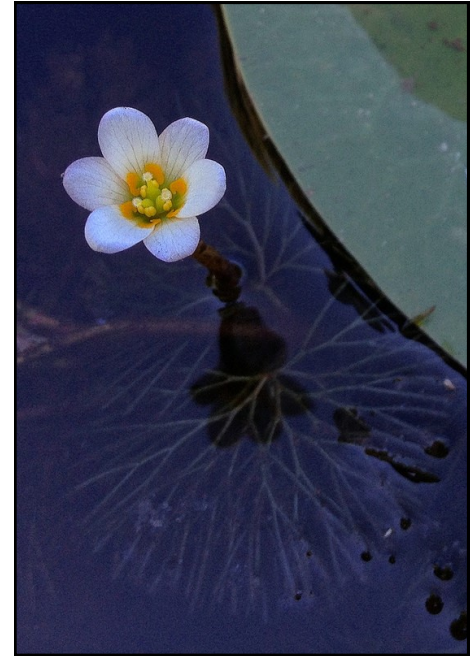
(*Cabomba caroliniana* A. Gray)

Description:

Carolina fanwort is an herbaceous perennial plant native to the south eastern part of the United States. It is part of the watershield family, Cabombaceae. It is characterized by long branched, dendritic stems (up to 6 ft) and fibrous roots. It is a submergent, rooted plant, meaning it needs a substratum to root to and is nearly complete underwater, save only its flowers which bloom in late summer.

Habitat and Dispersion:

Carolina fanwort is found in slow moving, or stagnate waterways. It spreads vegetatively or via seeds. Carolina fanwort is quickly spread in slow moving water, as any piece broken off will lodge somewhere down stream and produce a new plant. Care must be taken when harvesting fanwort to keep any straying pieces from floating away. Carolina fanwort is sometimes mistaken for Eurasian milfoil, another rampant invasive found in the Catskill region and beyond.



Management techniques:

Plants should be physically hand-pull from roots to prevent re-growth. Vegetation should be placed in black plastic bag and allowed to decompose for 2 weeks minimum or until the vegetation has decayed to the point of no recognition (i.e. liquefied). Care must be taken to collect all pieces of this plant as any left floating will produce another colony.

Native Range and Original Use:

Carolina fanwort is a native to the South Eastern United States and was introduced as a ornamental aquarium plant.

