

Cabomba caroliniana A. Gray

Fam: Cabombaceae

Fanwort

Synonyms : *Cabomba australis* Speg., *Cabomba pulcherrima* (R.M. Harper) Fassett

Ecology : Fanwort grows in static or slow flowing watercourses up to a few meters deep. The plant develops roots in the soil and can produce large mats. After frost the plants disintegrate in to small fragments, which may cause an extension of the infested area. Sections of the stem just 1 cm in length, and having a single pair of leaves, can develop into a complete plant. It is currently known to be present at only one site in the UK.

Threat : Fanwort can become very dominant and smother other vegetation, hinder water circulation and render habitat restoration impossible. Deoxygenation may occur when the plants die.

Control : Plants need to be removed fully, including subterranean parts. Fragmentation should be prevented.

Identification / similar species : Fanwort has long unbranched stems with opposite fan shaped leaves. From July it produces small white flowers with a yellow centre and small diamond- to arrow-shaped floating leaves. Fanwort may be confused with other aquatic plants with numerous fine segments like water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp.), hornwort (*Ceratophyllum* spp.) and water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.). It can be differentiated as fanwort, is the only species with opposite leaves. *Cabomba furcata* is also used as a plant for aquaria, but this species has pink stems and purple flowers.

This species is on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ('the Union list') pursuant to regulation (EU) no.1143/2014.

