



FANWORT

Cabomba caroliniana
Origin: South America

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

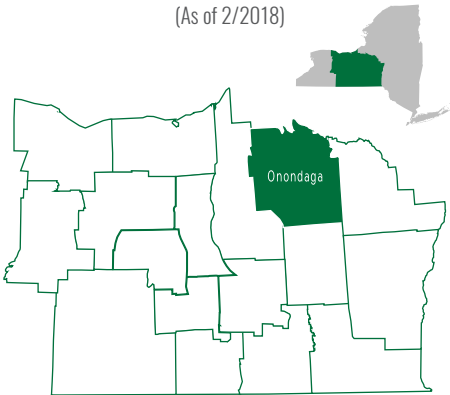
High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Fanwort is a submerged invasive aquatic plant with green, delicate, fan-like underwater leaves that are usually about 5 cm across and arranged opposite each other in pairs along the stem. Small oval floating leaves are occasionally present. Small (2 cm or smaller) white flowers form and bloom throughout late spring and summer. It can also reproduce vegetatively via fragmentation.

HABITAT

Fanwort grows up to depths of 10 m rooted in the muddy substrate of slow moving waters of lakes, ponds, and occasionally rivers. It can grow under a wide range of of nutrient levels, light levels, temperatures, and pH levels.

THREAT

Fanwort can be an aggressive weed. Once established, fanwort forms dense mats that can out-compete and displace native vegetation, which leads to a decline in biodiversity. Dissolved oxygen can be depleted when the mats of fanwort decompose. Infestations also inhibit recreational activities, including boating, fishing, and swimming.

MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body. Harvesting can greatly reduce fanwort biomass in a water body. However, mechanical and manual removal are likely to create and spread fragments, which are capable of producing new plants. Several herbicides are effective in controlling fanwort populations. Benthic barriers can also be effective in small areas, although they are not species specific.

REFERENCE - Robinson, M. 2002. Fanwort: An Invasive Aquatic Plant. D.C.R. Office of Water Resources, Lakes and Ponds Program. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/fact-sheet/fanwort.pdf>. June 12, 2017.

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