

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Cabomba/Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- A submerged, aquatic, perennial.
- Native to the southeast United States and tropical South America.
- Submerged, fine, fan-shaped leaves (5-6 cm wide) are arranged in opposing pairs on the stem. Rare emergent alternating leaves 1.3 cm long).
- Small, solitary flowers (0.6-1.5 cm) are white or pale yellow, each with 3 petals and 3 sepals all the same size.
- Stems are divided into several branches, with reddish-brown hairs.
- The leaves and stems secrete a sticky, gelatinous mucous creating a protective slime-like layer.
- Fibrous roots are attached to the substrate.

Mature plants



Image: B.C. Government

PRIMARY THREATS: Forms dense, single species masses that dominate waterways, impeding flow and drainage, and reducing fish habitat and recreation.

Submerged
fan-shaped leaves



Image: Paul Skawinski

Rare surface leaves



Image: B.C. Government

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

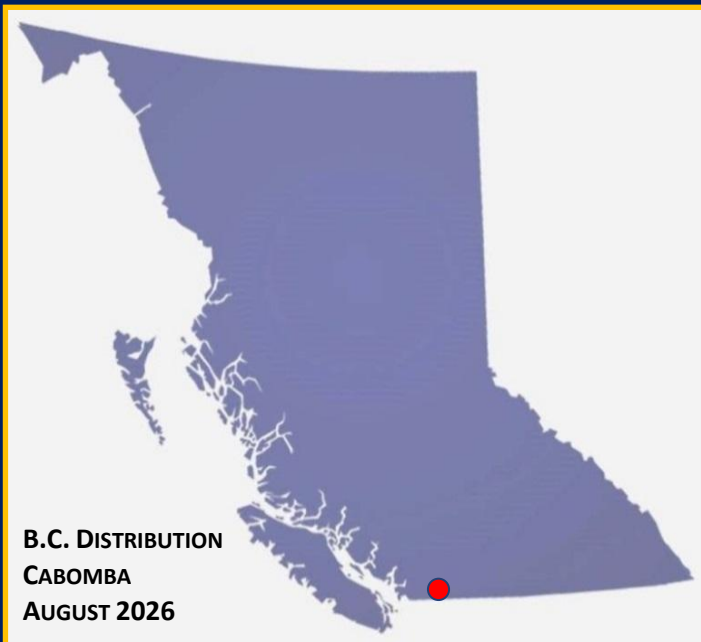
- Reproduces by seed and stem/root fragmentation (1 cm or more).
- Prefers organic substrates and medium to high light exposure.
- Local dispersal by water currents, flood waters, and wildlife.
- Long distance dispersal by nursery trade, watercraft, fishing gear, and improper disposal of aquarium or pond plants.



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Invasive Plants



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REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** sightings.
- **CHOOSE** only non-invasive plants for your water garden.
- **DISPOSE** of aquarium, pond and water garden plant waste in a dryland compost or landfill.
- **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** all watercraft, waders, and other water equipment on site after each use:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/invasive-mussels/clean-drain-dry>



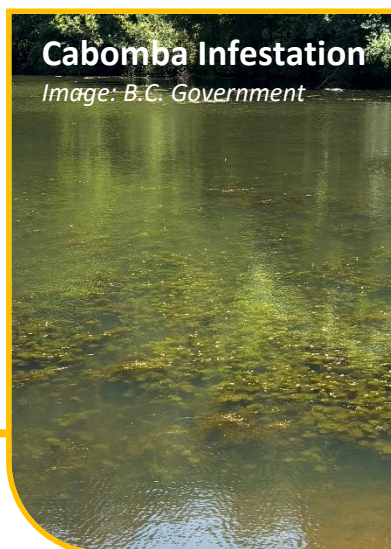
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DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Management goal is provincial eradication in open waterways.
- Containment in progress at one known occurrence in an open waterway in southwest B.C.

HABITAT

- Thrives in slow-moving or still waters such as creeks, ditches, ponds, and lakes.
- Tolerates cold water and can remain green year-round.
- Can not tolerate shade or water depths greater than 3 metres.
- Prefers freshwater but will tolerate slightly brackish conditions.



LOOK-ALIKES

- Invasive
 - Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
 - Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- Native
 - Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)
 - Greater bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*)
 - Beck's water-marigold (*Bidens beckii*)
 - White Water Buttercup (*Ranunculus aquatilis*)

