



Species Description

Scientific name: *Cabomba caroliniana*

AKA: Green cabomba, Carolina water-shield

Native to: South America and eastern North America

Habitat: Lakes, ponds and fast and slow flowing rivers

Normally occurs as a fully submerged perennial aquatic plant that can grow to 2 metres long, rooting in the bed of the water body. It has finely divided fan-shaped dark green leaves attached to the stem in pairs. Can have a tubular appearance in water due to the way the leaves are arranged under the water.

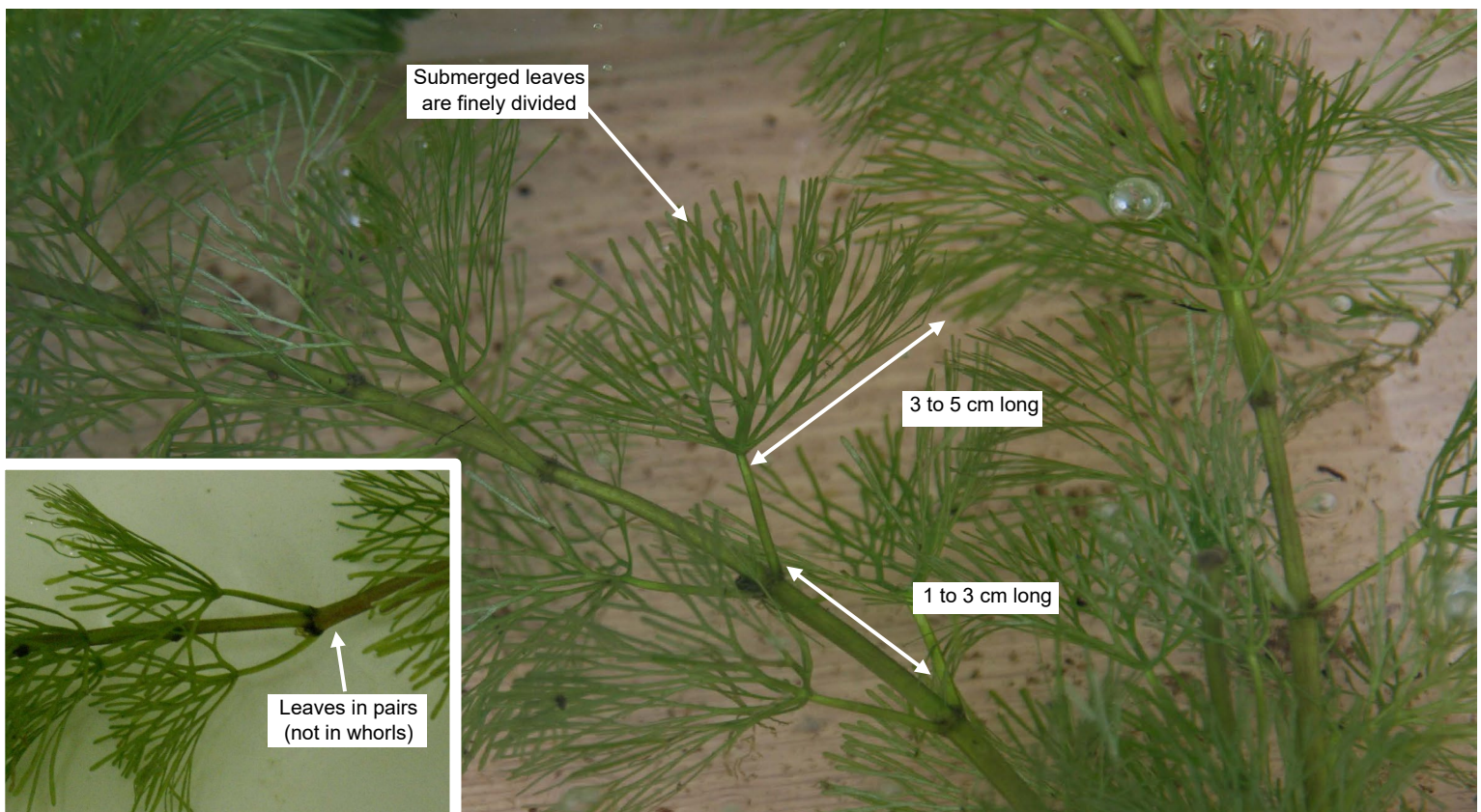
It is a popular aquarium plant; transport and inappropriate disposal are considered to be the most likely route into Northern Ireland. Although it is not present in Northern Ireland, it has become an invasive weed in many other countries and has become naturalized in North America, India, Japan and Australasia.

Fanwort can form dense stands that can displace native species as well as clog up waterways. It easily spreads via stem fragments which makes management difficult.

Under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 it is offence to intentionally keep; grow or cultivate; transport to, from or within Northern Ireland, use or exchange *Cabomba caroliniana*; or to release it into the environment.



Key ID Features



Identification throughout the year

Dies back in winter, but can be found submerged throughout the year.
Regrowth starts in spring.

Distribution

Recorded in very few locations in UK and Ireland.

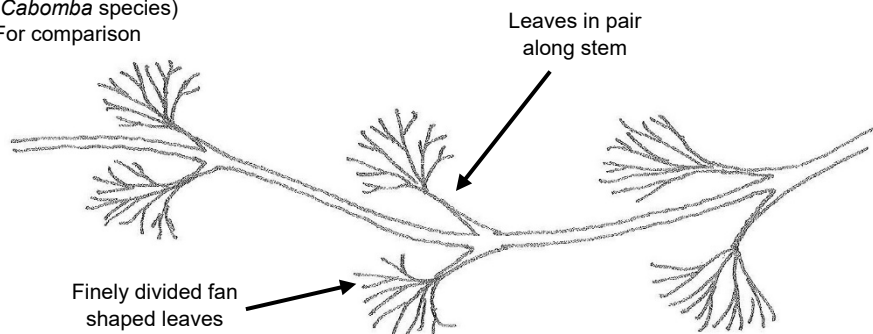


Source: NBN atlas – available at
<https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0000456744>
Check website for current distribution

Similar Species

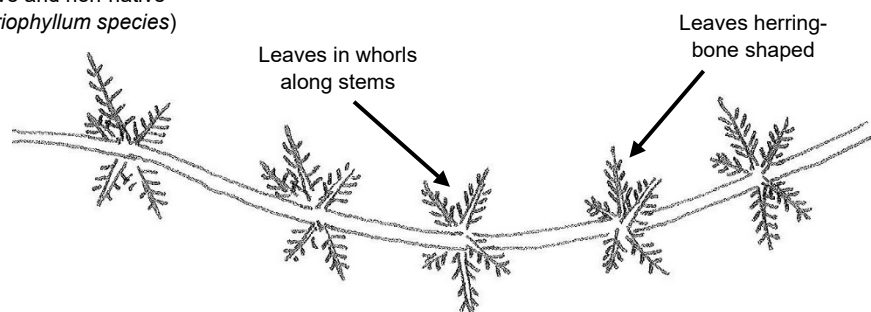
Water-shield species

Invasive non-native
(*Cabomba* species)
For comparison



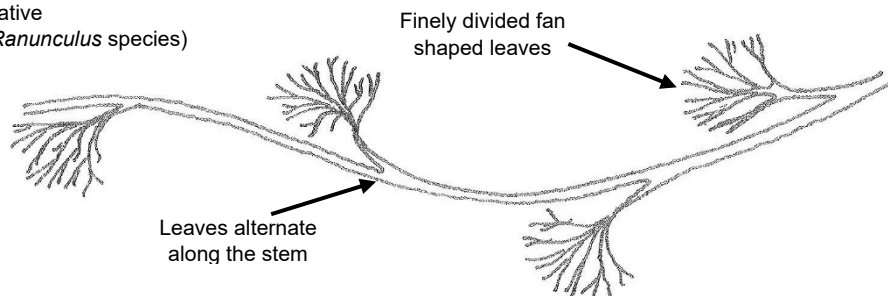
Water-milfoil species

Native and non-native
(*Myriophyllum* species)



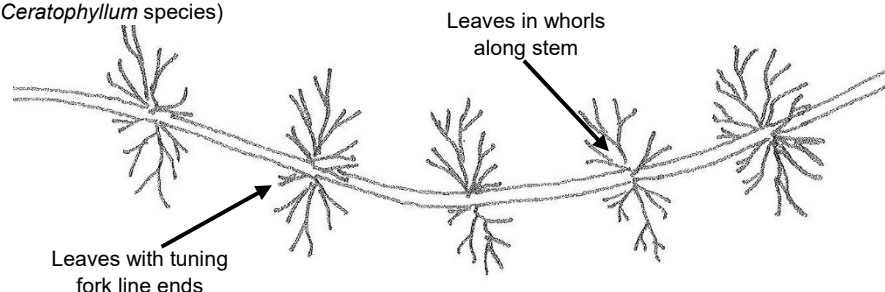
Water Crow-foot species

Native
(*Ranunculus* species)



Hornwort species

Native
(*Ceratophyllum* species)



References and further reading:

Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1997) "*Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland*". Harley Books
Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) "*New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*". Oxford University Press
Stace, C (1999) "*Field Flora of the British Isles*". Cambridge University Press
Photos from: Olaf Booy.

Adapted for Northern Ireland
Environment Agency 2020



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency



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