

# Cabomba

[*Cabomba caroliniana*]

## DESCRIPTION

Cabomba is a submersed annual plant that is characterized by slightly flattened stems that arise from the base of the plant. Roots



are fibrous and silvery. Leaves are opposite, dissected, and fan-shaped. The leaves can also be described as being soft, and flexible. The flowers of Cabomba are located just above the water surface when they are fully open. Each flower has three petals that are pink to yellow, and may be spotted. Each flower is approximately 1/3 inch wide.

The plant can vary widely in color; sometimes it can have green leaves with white or cream flowers, and other times it can have reddish leaves with pinkish flowers. Flowers are present on the plant all through the summer, and the plant can be found in lakes, ponds, and rivers of the coastal plain and piedmont.

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION
Growth Season	annual
Growth Habit	submersed
Leaflet Number	many
Leaf Margin	finely dissected
Leaf Hairs	none
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	fan-shaped
Leaf Length	1/2 – 1 inches
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	fibrous
Flower Color	white, cream OR pink

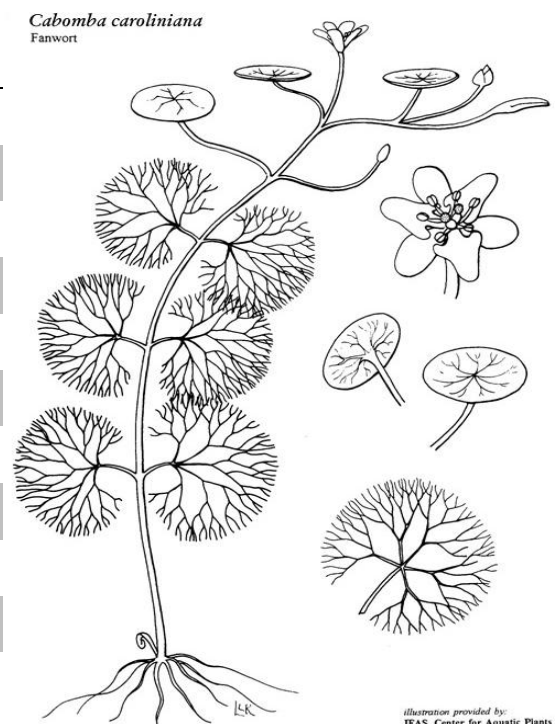


illustration provided by:  
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**References:**

*Line drawings:*

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*Text:*

Aulback-Smith, C. A., and de Kozlowski, S. J. 1996. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.