

Field Horsetail

Equisetum arvense

Minnesota C-Value: 1
Wetland Indicator Status: FAC
Native



Leaves: Reduced to scales which are united into a sheath at each node. The top of the sheath is divided into dark-colored teeth 1-2 mm long.

Stems: Sterile stems are green, hollow, 10-60 cm tall and 2-5 mm wide. Shallow ridges make the stem rough to the touch. Upright to spreading branches in dense whorls near the top of the stem. Fertile stems (spore producing) are flesh-colored, shorter than sterile stems and have larger sheaths.

Flowers and fruit: Blunt-tipped cones on long stalks at the end of the stem. Cones are 0.5-3 cm long and contain spores rather than seeds.

Plant communities: Stream banks, wet meadows, moist woods, ditches, roadsides, disturbed areas.

Comments: Perennial. Rhizome producing. Fertile stems emerge earlier in spring and wither after spores are mature. The sterile stem then emerges from the rhizome.