

**National Wetland Plant
List Field Identification
Guide: Common
Equisetum sp. of Alaska**

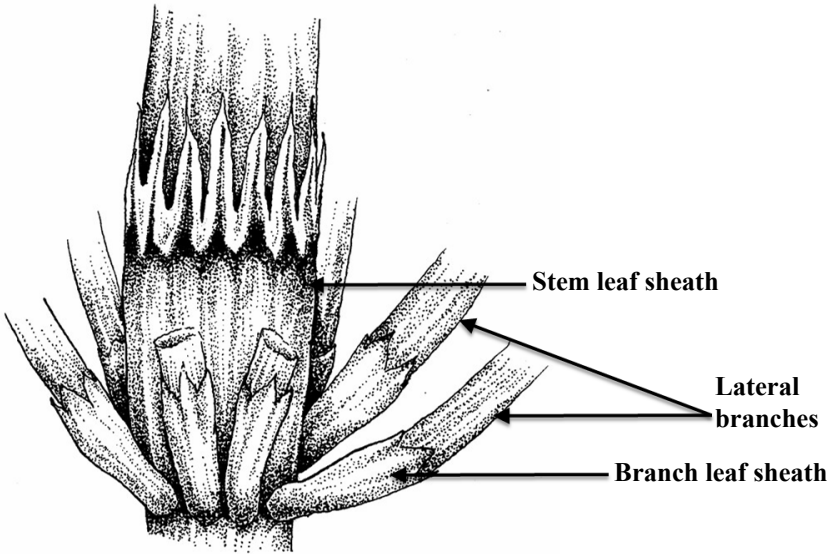


*Caution-This is a limited species key
NWPL

Equisetum Key

1. Lateral branches off the stem branched.....*E. sylvaticum*
1. Lateral branches either not branched or lacking
 2. Stems lacking lateral branches.
 3. Stems slender and diameter of a pencil or less, low growing, appearing tangled and not upright.....*E. scirpoides*
 3. Stems erect and typically thicker than a pencil.
 4. Stem leaf sheaths with ash grey band, stem coarse to touch.....*E. hyemale*
 4. Stems leaf sheaths black but not ash grey, stems smooth to touch.....*E. laevigatum*
 2. Stems with lateral branches.
 5. Stems brownish, fleshy and short lived in the spring (dimorphic).
.....*E. arvense*
 5. Stems greenish and firm, lasting through the growing season (appearing monomorphic).
 6. Leaf sheath on branch stem shorter than the leaf sheath on the stem.
 7. Stems with large central hollow, greater than 11 sheath teeth; more often growing as an aquatic
.....*E. fluviatile*
 7. Stems with a small central hollow, less than 11 sheath teeth, growing in moist areas but usually not aquatic.....*E. palustre*
 6. Leaf sheath on lowest branch longer than the leaf sheath on the stem.
 8. The lateral branch and leaf sheath 3-sided and branches horizontal or drooping.....*E. pratense*
 8. The lateral branch and leaf sheath 4-sided and the branches obviously ascending (upright).....*E. arvense*

Equisetum Terminology



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Equisetum arvense
Field Horsetail (FAC)



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Equisetum fluviatile
Water Horsetail (OBL)



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Equisetum hyemale
Tall Scouring-Rush (FACW)



Equisetum laevigatum
Smooth Scouring-Rush (FACW)

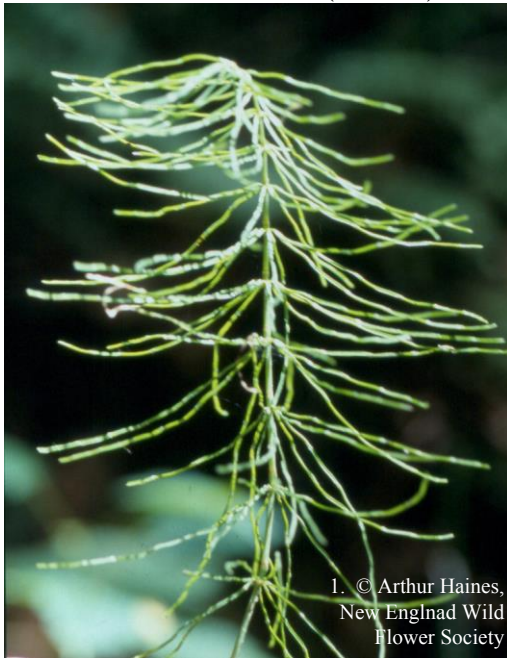


Equisetum palustre
Marsh Horsetail (FACW)



1. © Arthur Haines,
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Equisetum pratense
Meadow Horsetail (FACW)



1. © Arthur Haines,
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Equisetum scirpoides
Dwarf Scouring-Rush (FACU)



Equisetum sylvaticum
Woodland Horsetail (FAC)



Photo Credit:

1. Haines, Arthur. *Equisetum palustre*, *Equisetum pratense*, and *Equisetum scirpoides*. New England Wild Flower Society. www.gobotany.newenglandwild.org
2. CYSIP. *Equisetum sylvaticum*. CYSIP: Botany. Central Yukon Species Inventory Project, 2011. <http://www.flora.dempstercountry.org>.