

**National Wetland Plant
List Field Identification
Guide: Common
Equisetum sp. of the
Arid West**

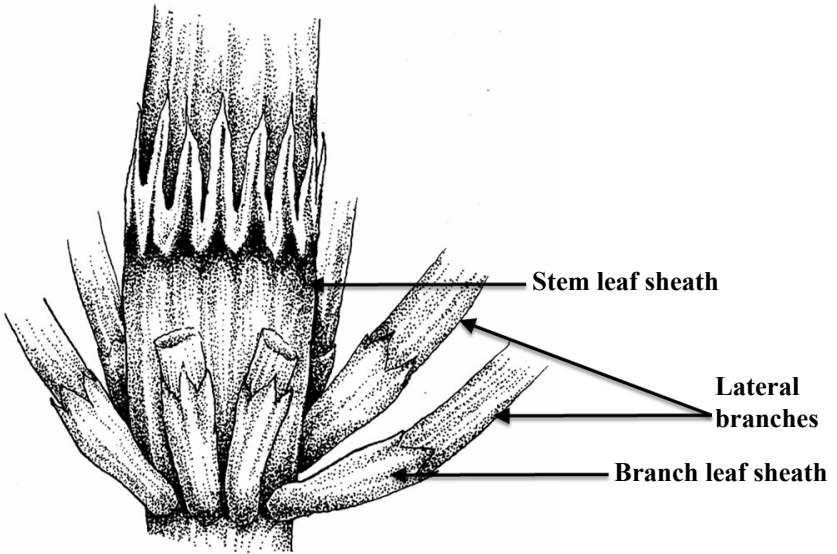


*Caution-This is a limited species key
NWPL

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 or white but not ash grey.
 5. Stems with black band on leaf sheath, stems with ridges but smooth and leaf tips tiny to absent
.....*E. laevigatum*
 5. Stems with white band on leaf sheath, stems with ridges but rough to touch and leaf tip larger and more persistent through the growing season
.....*E. variegatum*
 2. Stems with lateral branches.
 6. Stems brownish, fleshy and short lived in the spring (dimorphic)
 7. Stem leaf sheath teeth 6-10 on fertile stem.....*E. arvense*
 7. Stem leaf sheath teeth 20-30 on fertile stem.....*E. telmateia*
 6. Stems greenish and firm, lasting through the growing season (appear monomorphic).
 8. Leaf sheath on lowest branch longer than the leaf sheath on the stem.....*E. arvense*
 8. Leaf sheath on branch stem shorter than the leaf sheath on the stem.
 9. Branches solid in x-section, ridges furrowed
.....*E. telmateia*
 9. Branches hollow in x-section, ridges furrowed.
 10. Stems with large central hollow in stem, greater than 11 sheath teeth; growing more as an aquatic
.....*E. fluviatile*
 10. Stems with a small central hollow in stem, less than 11 sheath teeth, growing in moist areas but usually not aquatic.....*E. palustre*

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>.