

Sagittaria latifolia



broadleaf arrowhead

Family	Alismataceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	4

DESCRIPTION

This spongy perennial plant has distinct arrow-shaped leaves with two backward pointing basal lobes. Leaves vary in size and width from broad to very narrow. Flowering stems (to 0.6 m tall) grow from starchy edible corms (bulb-like underground stem structures). Stems, and leaves and leaf stalks are smooth.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Flowers (both male and female) are whorled (three per group) along a spike-like stem (two to eight groups per stem). Both genders (0.5 to 2 cm wide) have three broad white petals and three small pale green sepals. Female flowers have a ball-like green center, while male flowers have a center of bright yellow stamens. Fruit clusters are round, ball-like containing the beaked achenes (seeds).

HABITAT

Shallow water edges in marshes, swamps, streams, ponds, floodplain forests, and disturbed wetlands.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Sagittaria australis, longbeak arrowhead, differs in the achene beak; it is horizontal on *S. latifolia* and erect on *S. australis*. *S. latifolia* has stem bracts 4-12 mm long, *S. australis* has bracts 10-30 mm long. *S. australis* has sharply five-angled leaf-stalks.



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Male flower



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Female flower



S. latifolia, achene beak



S. australis, achene beak

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