

Typha latifolia

INVASIVE



broadleaf cattail

Family Typhaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC -3

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, often becoming invasive, forms dense stands via rhizomes (underground stems). It has stout, smooth, round stems (1 to 3 m tall).

Leaves (8 to 24 mm wide) grow from the base in fan-like linear arrangement, and are green to bluish grey, smooth and flattened with many bending downward.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Fertile stems have both a spike of male flowers and another spike of female flowers on the same stalk. The spikes are usually contiguous or separated only by 4 mm, with the male spike above the female spike. Male portion is 2 to 15 cm long, female portion is 2.5 to 20 cm long and 1.5 to 3.5 cm wide. Fruits are achenes (to 1 cm) with long white basal hairs for wind dispersal.



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HABITAT

Swamps, marshes, ponds, beaver wetlands, ditches, disturbed areas with high nutrient inputs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Typha angustifolia, narrow-leaved cattail, has green (not bluish-grey) leaves only 4 to 11 mm wide. The flowering spikes are more widely separated along the flowering stem (1 to 12 cm apart). The two species can hybridize, and identification of the hybrid is difficult.



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Typha angustifolia