



Horsetail

Equisetum hyemale

Plant Description – native, herb/wildflower, evergreen, perennial

Height: 2 – 4 ft **Width/Spread:** 1 – 6 ft



Leaves

Shape: scale-like

Arrangement: whorled

Margin: dentate

Form: fused

Leaf Description: reed-like, dark green stems are cylindrical, about 1/3-inch in diameter, jointed, mostly hollow, usually branched, and have rough horizontal ridges; leaves are reduced to node-scales, joined together around the stem at each joint, forming a narrow, black, sheath-like band ending in a fringe of teeth

Flower/Bloom

Not a flowering plant

Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Spores & Rhizomes

Seed Type: Spore-bearing Cone

Spore Season: Late Spring – Mid-summer

Fruit and Seed Description: No fruit or seeds; reproduces by spores in a pale yellow ovoid-shaped cone structure up to 1" long known as a strobilus which is located at the end of a fertile stem; sometimes older shoots will produce 1-4 cones around its stem rather than at the end; the cone has a short, narrow point at the tip; cones wither away after spore production ends



Ecological Benefits

tall stems are great cover for various kinds of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects; dragonflies love perching on the stems

Maintenance Notes

Stems remain green in winter; prefers moist to wet soils at all times (*water three times per week*)