





# BROADLEAF CATTAIL

*Typha latifolia*

## Habitat Preference

Mostly freshwater and slightly brackish marshes. High water use. Grows in wet, rich soils in wetlands and along shores.

## Characteristics

### Vegetative

Long, parallel, sheathing leaves with broad linear leaf blades that can be up to 5 feet tall. Alternate arrangement.

### Flower

Minute flowers densely packed into brown, cylindrical inflorescence

### Other Key Identifiers:

Grows in dense, grassy mats. Reach a usual height of 7 feet; stems are tall and unbranched.

## Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Shoots and rhizomes (underground stems) are consumed by muskrats and water fowl.
- Roots can break down heavy metals.
- Provides nesting sites for red-winged blackbirds, ducks, geese and fish as well as use by deer for hiding cover.
- High capacity for growth—one seed can produce a network of rhizomes and a hundred shoots per growing season.



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