Cattail *(Typha latifolia, Typha angustifolia)*

Cattails are one of the most common plants in large marshes and on the edge of ponds. Two species are most common in the US: **broad-leaved cattail** (*T. latifolia*) and **narrow-leaf cattail** (*T. angustifolia*). Many varieties of cattail are found throughout North America, Asia, Europe, and Africa. The unique flowering spike (i.e. the 'corndog') is a distinct characteristic of these wetland plants. Cattails prefer shallow, flooded conditions and establish easily along pond shorelines or in waters 1-1½ feet deep. Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many aquatic macroinvertebrates. Fish and water fowl, eat these organisms, while taking cover amidst the tall cattail. Cattail also provide valuable services, such as filtering runoff and reducing erosion.

Although the cattail is a valuable part of its native ecosystems, it can become weedy and a nuisance when introduced to new or disturbed ecosystems. Particularly when introduced to new areas, cattail can out-compete native plants and reduce biodiversity, fill in waterways used for recreation, and pose a problem to irrigation canals.

Physical Characteristics:
- Thick, white roots (rhizomes)
- Flat leaves, 3-10 feet
- Brown, 'corndog'-like flower structure

Location:
- North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceana
- Shallow, flooded conditions
- Along lake shores or in shallow water

Also Known As:
- Cat o'nine tails
- Corn dog grass

Benefits	Concerns
• Stabilizes eroding shores	• Can spread very quickly in disturbed wetlands
• Provides food for organisms	• Can be invasive
• Filters water	
• Takes up excess nutrients	