

# *Typha latifolia*

Broad-Leaved Cattail,  
Common Cattail

Native to Maine

Freshwater  
Freshwater Wetlands and Water's edge

## Leaves



Gertrud K, [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



Look for tall, narrow, pale-green leaves that are sword-shaped. Leaves are 1 to 2 cm wide and 1.5 to 3 meters tall. They are as tall as the flowering stem.




## Plant



the justified sinner, [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



Look for a rush growing up to 3 m tall with distinct brown flowering spikes. It grows in waters up to 2 to 3 cm deep or at the water's edge.

SEDGE, RUSH, OR GRASS		
THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF PLANTS WITH GRASS-LIKE LEAVES. TO TELL THEM APART LOOK AT SHAPE OF THE STEMS.		
<b>SEDGE</b>  TRIANGULAR STEM	<b>RUSH</b>  ROUND STEM	<b>GRASS</b>  HOLLOW STEM WITH NODES
HINT: SEDGES HAVE EDGES, RUSHES ARE ROUND, GRASSES ARE HOLLOW, WHICH HAVE YOU FOUND?		

## Stem



Penaloza, [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



Look for stems that are up to 3 m tall, stiff, and 2 cm wide. They remain standing in the winter after they have died.

## Seasonal Change



whiteoakart, [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



From May to July look for male and female flowers that are attached (no gap). Female flowers form a brown cylinder. Male flowers look like tails.

[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)

## Similar Species

To tell the Broad-Leaved Cattail apart from the Narrow-Leaved Cattail look at the male and female flowers. The Narrow Leaved Cattail has a 2 cm gap between the male and female flowers. The Broad-Leaved Cattail has no gap and thicker, flatter leaves and a thicker female flower.

## Fun Fact

The pollen of the Broad-Leaved Cattail can be used as a flour substitute in baking. It turns things like pancakes, cookies, and biscuits yellow.