

Typha latifolia

Broad-Leaved Cattail,
Common Cattail

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Freshwater Wetlands and Water's edge

Leaves



Gertrud K, 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.

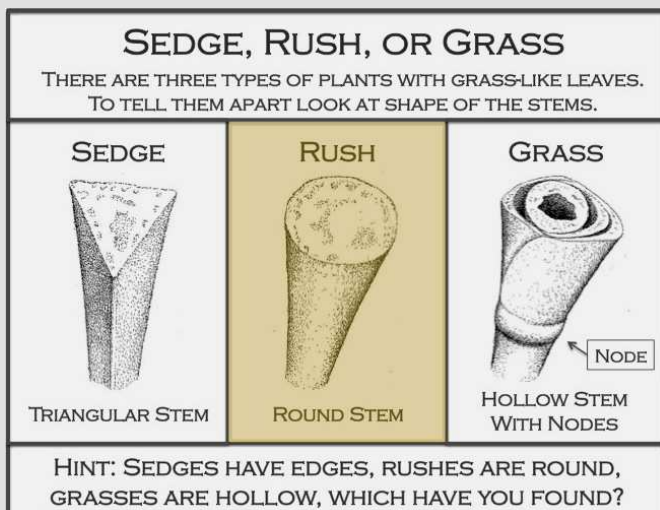
Plant



the justified sinner, www.flickr.com



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.



Stem



Penaloza, 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



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

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.