

Typha angustifolia

Narrow-Leaved Cattail

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Freshwater Wetlands and Water's edge

Leaves



<http://commons.wikimedia.org>



Look for tall, narrow, dark-green leaves that are sword-shaped. Leaves are 0.5 to 1 cm wide and up to 2 m tall. They are as tall as the flowering stem.

Plant



[ting0308, www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ting0308/)



Look for a rush growing up to 2 m tall with distinct, brown, flowering spikes. It grows in waters up to 0.5 m deep or at the water's edge.

Stem



<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

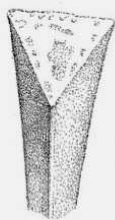


Look for stems that are up to 2 m tall, stiff, and 2 cm wide. They remain standing in the winter after they have died.

SEDGE, RUSH, OR GRASS

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF PLANTS WITH GRASS-LIKE LEAVES.
TO TELL THEM APART LOOK AT SHAPE OF THE STEMS.

SEDGE



TRIANGULAR STEM

RUSH



ROUND STEM

GRASS



HOLLOW STEM
WITH NODES

HINT: SEDGES HAVE EDGES, RUSHES ARE ROUND,
GRASSES ARE HOLLOW, WHICH HAVE YOU FOUND?

Seasonal Change



[Roger B, www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com/photos/RogerB/)



In July and August look for male and female flowers that are separated by a 2 cm gap. Female flowers form a brown cylinder. Male flowers look like tails.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

To tell the Narrow-Leaved Cattail apart from the Broad-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

Muskrats harvest hundreds of cattail leaves and plaster them together with mud, creating a one- or two-room hut with an underwater entrance.