



Photo from Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation





BROADLEAF CATTAIL

Typha latifolia

Habitat Preference

Mostly freshwater and slightly *brackish* (5) marshes. Requires wet, rich soils and grows in wetlands and along shores.

Characteristics



Vegetative

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

Flower

Minute flowers densely packed into brown, cylindrical *inflorescence* (8).

Other Key Identifiers:

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

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Shoots and *rhizomes* (18) are consumed by muskrats and waterfowl.
- Used in *phytoremediation* (16), as the roots can break down heavy metals.
- Provides nesting sites for red-winged blackbirds, ducks, geese and fish; used by deer for cover.
- High capacity for growth: one seed can produce a network of rhizomes and a hundred shoots per growing season.

