

Phragmites

Phragmites australis, or common reed, is a wetland plant species found in every U.S. state.

It can grow up to 6 meters high in dense stands and is long-lived. *Phragmites* is capable of reproduction by seeds, but primarily does so asexually by means of rhizomes. Recent research has now shown that native and introduced genotypes of this species currently exist in North America.

Leaves stick out of both sides of the stem, "head"
bushy or feathery

Wild Rice

Wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) is native to North America and grows predominantly in the Great Lakes region. This large-seeded species, one of four species of wild rice, is in the grass family (Poaceae) and has been eaten by people since prehistoric times.

Very long leaves grow up from water, "head" sparse
and droopy

Bulrush

Marsh Bulrush is close Marsh Bulrush is closely related to sedges, plants known for growing in wet areas such as marshes, lake shores, ponds, wet woods, and ditches.

Marsh Bulrush grows up to six feet tall. It has leaf blades up to three feet long and nearly an inch wide. Leaf blades have rough edges and fold over at the tip.

Bulrushes are eaten by ducks and other wildlife.

Plant is a sedge (stem has edges, is triangular).

Soft Rush

Very common shoreline plant; food for beaver and common muskrat; excellent cover for wetland birds, various songbirds and small mammals

Soft rush is grass-like and grows in dense clusters from rhizomes, up to 3 1/2 feet in height. stems are dark green, singular (not branched), soft, with fine vertical lines, round in cross section, with a sharp tip, and with sheaths around the base. Flowers are borne in a single cluster along the upper half of the stem but not near the stem tip.

Stem is round, no edges

Duck Potato

An upright to spreading aquatic plant that grows from tuber-bearing roots. Common in water or muddy areas. Flowers are generally in whorls of three on a long spike. The tubers are eaten by ducks and other wildlife, hence the common name "Duck potato"

Leaves arrow-shaped

Iris (Blue Flag)

The Blue - Violet flower with deep purple veination reaches widths of about 4". The three downward sloping sepals on the flower have yellow bases, which act as a visual guide to direct insect traffic. The stalk can attain heights of 2' - 3' with sword- like leaves extending roughly the same height. Iris usually occur in small patches. Once they are fertilized a three sided seed pod arises and releases floating seeds, in order to better disperse their seeds in the wetlands in which they reside.

Leaves feel flat; blue or violet flower

Cattail

Common Cattails are a familiar sight along the shore of any marsh, pond, lake, or river. They can even be found in ditches.

Cattails are tall, stiff plants, growing almost ten feet tall. The leaves look like giant blades of grass, about one inch wide. The flower has two parts; a brown cylinder (the female part), and a yellow spike (the male part).

Leaves more "fleshy," has brown "hot dog" near
top

Tearthumb

Tearthumbs weak-stemmed sprawling annuals. They use backward-pointing hooks on the stem and leaves to help it climb over other plants. The hooks are also responsible for the name "tearthumb." Arrow tearthumb and [halberd-leaved tearthumb](#) can be distinguished by the shape of the leaves -- like narrow arrowheads on arrow tearthumb, and wider with spreading lobes at the base on halberd-leaved tearthumb.

Leaf edges not toothed, leaf arrow-shaped, stems prickly

Jewelweed

Jewelweed, a member of the *Impatiens* family, is a small, bushy plant that likes wet soil. The nearby patch grows right along a little creek. When in bloom, it displays a profusion of small orange flowers.

Plant soft and nearly droopy, small orange or yellow flowers

Hibiscus

Hibiscus...from Greek, *hibiskos*, the marsh mallow, a malvaceous plant that grows in marshy conditions.

Plant more erect, some stems woody, leaves pointier, almost lobed, large white, pink or red cup-shaped flowers

Skunk Cabbage

Skunk Cabbage is a large-leafed plant that grows in wet areas, especially near streams, ponds, marshes, and wet woods. It is easy to recognize, with its huge leaves rising directly from the ground.

Skunk Cabbage is one of the first plants to bloom in the Spring, and can bloom anywhere from February to May. The first part of the plant to appear is the spathe. The spathe is a brownish-purple, shell-like pod with green splotches. It may resemble something from a science-fiction movie.

Leaves wide and rounded