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Field horsetail

Equisetum arvense L.

Life cycle

Perennial spore-producing plant.

Leaves

Not present.

Stems

Vegetative stems are green and branch in whorls. Stems may have a bottle-brush appearance and should not exceed 2 feet in height. Stems die back to the ground in winter.

Flowers and fruit

Erect, unbranched, white to brown fruiting stalks (stems) bear terminal spore-releasing cones. Flowers are not produced.

Reproduction

Spores and prolific rhizomes.



Patch of field horsetail fruiting and vegetative stems.

Equisetaceae (Horsetail family)

Field horsetail *continued*



Field horsetail fruiting stalk.



Close-up of vegetative stem of field horsetail.



Field horsetail vegetative stems.



Similar weeds

Scouringrush (*E. hyemale* L.)

Differs by having larger evergreen stems with little or no branching. Grows only in wet areas.

Equisetaceae (Horsetail family)