

Southern cat-tail

Typha domingensis

Description

Plays an important roll as a source of food and shelter for marsh-dwelling animals.

Habit

Perennial wetland plant.

Leaves

Pale yellow-green in color, alternate, long, linear, flat and sheathing. 6-9 leaves per stem, up to 5/8 inch wide, flat on one side and convex on the other.

Stems

Pithy, simple, erect and 5-13 feet tall.

Flowers

Numerous tiny flowers densely packed into a cylindrical spike at the end of the stem that can grow up to 8 feet. Divided into an upper section of yellow, male flowers and lower cinnamon brown, sausage-shaped section of female flowers. Gap between male and female flowers is





about 2.5-5 centimeters.

Fruits and Seeds

Seeds are tiny (about 1 mm) and hairy. They are dispersed by wind.

Habitat

Native to the southern United States. Found in freshwater marshes, wet meadows, fens, roadsides, ditches, shallow ponds, stream and lake shores.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by underground rhizomes.

Similar

Broad leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), narrow-leaved (*Typha angustifolia*) and Hybrid cattail (*Typha glauca*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Cut all stems, both green and dead in mid to late summer or early fall. If possible, maintain a water level of a minimum of 3 inches above cut stems for entire growing season. Foliar spray with aquatic approved imazypr has been effective.

Credits

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