

## Plant Indicator Species for Marsh

The plants described below can often be used as field indicators for identifying this habitat when other physical and biological features of the habitat are present.

### **tussock sedge** (*Carex stricta*) (sedge)

- root mass forms an elevated tussock from which new shoots emerge
- stems and leaves densely clustered
- occurs in many kinds of wetlands: swamp, marsh, wet meadow, fen



### **rice cutgrass** (*Leersia oryzoides*) (grass)

- stems and leaves light-green
- leaf margins very rough



### **bur-reed** (*Sparganium*) (graminoid)

- leaves stout, grass-like, strongly angled at mid-vein
- flowers tiny, white, in spherical heads (1 in diameter) arranged on zig-zag stalk
- fruit in green spiky heads that turn brown as the plant senesces, and often persist through the winter



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### **cattail** (*Typha*) (graminoid)

- usually 4 - 7 ft tall (can be up to 10 ft)
- leaves broad, flattish, narrowly D-shaped in cross-section
- flower spike dark brown, cylindrical, persists through winter



G.A. Cooper, courtesy Smithsonian Institution

### **arrow-arum** (*Peltandra virginica*) (forb)

- leaves large, arrow-shaped, feather-veined
- flower spike inconspicuous, enclosed in long pointed spathe (May – July)



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### **yellow pond-lily** (*Nuphar advena* ssp. *advena*) (forb)

- leaves large (4 - 10 in diameter), floating, round, with rounded basal lobes, and deeply notched at junction with stem
- flower large, yellow, roundish, with disk-like stigma



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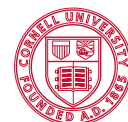
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**pickerelweed** (*Pontederia cordata*)  
(forb)

- leaves large, heart-shaped, with parallel veins
- broad spikes (2 - 6 in long) of purple flowers (June – October)



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