



Three types of cattail are found in the Lakehead Watershed – one native and desirable, and two aggressive and invasive. Broad-leaved, or common cattail (*Typha latifolia*) is the “good guy”. Narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) is an invasive species. The third cattail is created when the other two types of cattail crossbreed, creating the hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*). Both Narrow-leaved and Hybrid cattail can take over wetlands, spreading quickly to form monocultures and crowd out native species. The main differences between the Invasive Narrow-leaved Cattail and the Native Common Cattail are their leaf sizes and flower spikes. Cattails have two parts to their flower spikes (male and female): the pollen is in the upper part (male) and spills down to the lower part where seeds are formed (female). In the invasive Narrow-leaved cattail species, there is a **gap along the stem between these two floral components**. In the native species there is no gap, just one long connected flower spike. The leaves of Narrow-leaved cattail (invasive) are 2-5 ft long and **very narrow**.

INVASIVE CATTAIL



Typha angustifolia; Also called Narrow-leaved Cattail

Control: Narrow-leaved cattail is a dominant riparian species that limits biodiversity in many wetland habitats. Manual control by cutting during late summer/early fall, following submergence of stems by 7.5 cm (3 in) is an effective management method.

Stem: Round or oval in cross-section and slender.

Leaves: Leaf blades are green, 3-12 mm wide and flattened or slightly rolled in at the edges.

Flower: Monoecious (male and female flowers are produced on the same spike), with the male and female parts of each flower spike being separated by a gap of ½-3 inches. The slender upper spike has male flowers that are shed soon after pollination. The lower spike has female flowers, green when young but maturing to brown.

Fruit: After pollination the male flowers rapidly disperse leaving a naked stalk tip. The pollinated female flowers turn brown as the seeds mature, forming a cylindrical, sausage-like cattail fruiting spike up to 9 inches long.

NATIVE CATTAIL



Typha latifolia; Also called Common/Broad-leaved Cattail

Common cattail often displaces the invasive cattail in shallow (<15cm) water. It's generally larger in size than Narrow-leaved cattail and found in relatively undisturbed habitats.

Stem: Light green to green, without hairs and stiff. Round to oval in cross section.

Leaves: Green to grey-blue leaves, often exceeding ½ inch width (5-29 mm). Flat or rolled in at edges.

Flower: The pistillate (male) and staminate (female) spikes of Common cattail are adjacent to each other or are separated by a distance of ½ inch or less.

Fruit: Matures to the typical sausage-shaped brown spike, composed of achenes (a small, dry, one-seeded fruit). Up to 1 foot long.

INVASIVE CATTAIL



Typha angustifolia; Also called Narrow-leaved Cattail

NATIVE CATTAIL



Typha latifolia; Also called Common/Broad-leaved Cattail

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