

## EQUISETACEAE – HORSETAIL FAMILY

**Plant:**

**Stem:** jointed, with nodes

**Root:**

**Leaves:** small, whorled, reduced and fused into sheaths with free tips (usually termed teeth)

**Flowers:** no true flowers; spores (all alike) from sporophylls on sporangia located on cones (strobilus), spores usually green except in hybrids; male and female gametophytes green, male smaller than female

**Fruit:** spores

**Other:** worldwide; Division Equisetophyta, Horsetail Group

**Genera:** 1 genus – *Equisetum* (horsetails or scouring rush), 15+ species

## EQUISETACEAE – HORSETAIL FAMILY

Field Horsetail; *Equisetum arvense* L.

[Common] Scouring Rush Horsetail; *Equisetum hyemale* L. var. *affine* (Engelm.) A.A. Eaton

# Field Horsetail

*Equisetum arvense* L.

Equisetaceae (Horsetail Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: Dimorphic (fertile and vegetative stems); fertile stems non-green, usually brownish, lacking stomata (pores), non-branching, shorter than veg. stems, sheath teeth dark, usually 14 or less, dies back after spores released; vegetative stems hollow and green, branched in whorls, branches solid with 3-4 ridges; spring

[V Max Brown, 2008]





# [Common] Scouring Rush Horsetail



*Equisetum hyemale* L. var. *affine*  
(Engelm.) A.A. Eaton

Equisetaceae (Horsetail Family)

Alley Springs, Shannon County, Missouri

Notes: medium to tall plant, up to 220 cm,  
unbranched stem (or with a few scattered branches),  
usually persists more than one year (perennial), with  
14 to 50 ridges, stomatal lines single, often rough to  
the touch; sheaths dark at most nodes (often 2 dark  
bands separated by a white band), 14 or more teeth;  
apex of cone fairly sharp or pointed; spores green  
and spherical; often found on banks of streams,  
ponds, and margins of lakes as well as along  
ditches, roadsides, etc.; spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2008]

