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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.*

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



*Field horsetail fruiting stalk.*



*Closeup 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.