

Typha latifolia Western Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Broad-Leaf Cattail Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Broad-Leaved Cattail Marsh
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Semipermanently flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.I.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Typha (angustifolia, latifolia) - (Scirpus spp.)</i> Semipermanently Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	2
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community occurs in Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

This community occurs along the Niobrara River throughout the length of the Monument.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found along streams, rivers, and the banks of ponds. The soil is saturated or flooded for much of the year (Ramaley 1939, Tolstead 1942). It usually has a high organic content.

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This community occurs in wet ground along the banks and in the bottoms of abandoned channels in the primary floodplain of the river. Soils range from fine sand with little organic matter to muck overlying sand, and are poorly to very poorly drained.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Typha latifolia</i>

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Iris pseudacorus, Scirpus tabernaemontani, Sparganium eurycarpum, Typha latifolia</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Typha latifolia

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

Sparganium eurycarpum, Typha latifolia

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is dominated by hydrophytic macrophytes, especially *Typha latifolia*, which grow to approximately 2 meters. *T. latifolia* can form dense stands in places, almost to the exclusion of other species. Other species typical of wetlands are found in lesser amounts in this community. Among these are *Carex* spp. and *Scirpus* spp.

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This community is dominated by tall graminoids 1-2 m tall. *Typha latifolia* is usually the most common species, and often nearly the only species present, though in some places *Sparganium eurycarpum* may form a wide band along the periphery of the cat-tails. *Iris pseudacorus* and *Scirpus tabernaemontani* are frequently found along the margins of this community, bordering *Juncus balticus* Herbaceous Vegetation. Shorter graminoids of *Juncus balticus* Herbaceous Vegetation such as *Carex nebrascensis*, *C. pellita*, *Eleocharis erythropoda*, and *Leersia oryzoides* may sometimes invade along the margins of this community. Forbs are widely scattered among the dominants, some of the more frequently encountered species being wet meadow species such as *Lycopus asper*, *Mentha arvensis*, and *Scutellaria lateriflora*. Marshes which remain saturated through most of the season are dominated almost exclusively by *Typha latifolia* and have very little understory, save for a few aquatic forbs such as *Lemna minor* and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL002010

COMMENTS

Globally

This community is a common element found in many wetland systems but has received little attention. Consequently, the diagnostic features and species of this community are not well known.

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Marshes dominated by *Scirpus tabernaemontani* are found in grazed areas east of the Monument boundary. It is unknown whether the species composition is an artifact of grazing, or due to some other factor.

REFERENCES

Ramaley, F. 1939. Sand-hill vegetation of northeastern Colorado. Ecological Monographs 9(1):1-51.

Tolstead, W. L. 1942. Vegetation of the northern part of Cherry County, Nebraska. Ecological Monographs 12(3):256-292.