

Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest
Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

Family: Equisetaceae

15 terminal taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties).

The Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, with current classifications, nomenclature and synonymy.

Taxa included in the checklist:

- Native taxa whether extant, extirpated, or extinct.
- Exotic taxa that are naturalized, escaped from cultivation, or persisting wild.
- Waifs (e.g., ballast plants, escaped crop plants) and other scarcely collected exotics.
- Interspecific hybrids that are frequent or self-maintaining.
- Some unnamed taxa in the process of being described.

Family classifications follow [APG IV](#) for angiosperms, PPG I (J. Syst. Evol. 54:563-603. 2016.) for pteridophytes, and Christenhusz et al. (Phytotaxa 19:55-70. 2011.) for gymnosperms, with a few exceptions. Nomenclature and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.

Accepted names are indicated with **blue type**, synonyms with **gray type**.

Native species and infraspecies are marked with **bold-face type**.

*Non-native and introduced taxa are preceded by an asterisk.

Please note: This is a working checklist, continuously updated. Use it at your discretion.

Created from the Flora of the PNW Checklist database on April 4th, 2026 at 3:47pm PT.

Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/pnwflora/>

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Ferns and Lycophytes:

Equisetaceae [FNA2, HC, HC2] Horsetail Family

FNA2: "Equisetum occurs in moist places such as riverbanks, lakeshores, roadsides, ditches, seepage areas, meadows, marshes, and wet woodlands. Aerial stems of Equisetum vary considerably in habit and appearance, even on individual plants, because of environmentally induced modifications affecting height and branching. Many taxonomically trivial varieties and forms have been named. For an extended discussion of this, see R.L. Hauke (1966). Four widespread, named hybrids are treated in the key and fully described below. In species descriptions and in the key, length and width are given for the leaf sheath, excluding the free teeth. If the length and width of flattened sheaths are approximately equal and the sides are straight, the sheath is more or less square in face view, i.e., about as long as broad; if the length is greater than the width and the sides are straight, the sheath is more or less elongate in face view, i.e., longer than broad; if the length is greater than the width and the sides are slightly convex, the sheath is elliptic in face view. Stomates are usually visible at 20x magnification. Reticulation in Equisetum is summarized in the reticulograms, which show the known and expected hybrids in North America. Most of those in Equisetum subg. Equisetum are still unknown in North America, but they should be sought, especially north of 45° N latitude. According to W.J. Cody and D.M. Britton (1989), *E. × font-queri* occurs rarely in British Columbia and materials possibly representing *E. × arcticum* Rothmaler have been taken in the Richardson Mountain region of Mackenzie. R.L. Hauke (1978) cited collections of *E. × font-queri* from British Columbia and California."

Equisetum [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1061. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 484, 1754.
horsetail, scouring-rush

Equisetum arvense L. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1061. 1753.
common horsetail, field horsetail

Equisetum arvense L. var. *boreale* (Bong.) Rupr.

FNA2: "Among the many infraspecific taxa that have been named in this species, *Equisetum arvense* var. *boreale* Bongard has been most generally accepted and has been applied to plants with tall, erect stems with 3-ridged branches. Because both 3-ridged and 4-ridged branches may occur on a single stem, the variety *boreale* is not recognized here as distinct (R.L. Hauke 1966)."

Equisetum × ferrissii Clute [FNA2, HC2]

Fern Bull. 12: 22. 1904.
Ferriss's horsetail, Ferriss's scouring rush
(= *Equisetum hyemale* × *Equisetum laevigatum*)

Equisetum hyemale L. var. *elatum* (Engelm.) C.V. Morton [Peck]

Equisetum fluviatile L. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1062. 1753.
river horsetail, swamp horsetail, water horsetail

Equisetum limosum L. [Peck]

Equisetum hyemale L. [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Sp. Pl. 2: 1062. 1753.
scouring rush horsetail, common scouring rush

ssp. *affine* (Engelm.) Calder & Roy L. Taylor [FNA2, HC2]

Canad. J. Bot. 43: 1387. 1965.
common scouring rush, Dutch scouring rush, prairie scouring rush

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

Equisetum hyemale L. var. *californicum* J. Milde [Abrams]

Equisetum praealtum Raf. [Abrams]

Equisetum laevigatum A. Braun [FNA2, HC, HC2]

Amer. J. Sci. Arts. 46: 87. 1844.
smooth scouring rush

Equisetum funstonii A.A. Eaton [Peck]
Equisetum kansanum J.H. Schaffn. [Peck]

FNA2: "Schaffner named this species *Equisetum kansanum* because he applied the name *E. laevigatum* to what we now know is the hybrid *E. x ferrissii*. The coarser-stemmed, occasionally persistent forms in the southwestern United States have been called *Equisetum funstonii*."

***Equisetum x litorale* Kühlew. ex Rupr. [FNA2]**

Beitr. Pflanzenk. Russ. Reiches. 4: 91. 1845.
shore horsetail

FNA2: "*Equisetum x litorale* is a hybrid between *E. arvense* and *E. fluviatile*. It should be expected where the parents coexist. This hybrid has been mistaken for *Equisetum palustre*; the solid branches with long first internodes and channeled valleys distinguish it from that species."

***Equisetum x mackaii* (Newman) Brichan [FNA2, HC2]**

Phytologist. 1: 369. 1843 (Nov. 1842).
small scouring rush

Equisetum hyemale L. var. *mackaii* Newman
Equisetum trachyodon (A. Braun) W.D.J. Koch [ILBC5]

Reported in WA by Lellinger (1985) but not recorded for WA in FNA. FNA2: "The hybrid between *Equisetum hyemale* and *E. variegatum*, *E. x mackaii*, is often mistaken for small forms of *E. hyemale*."

***Equisetum x nelsonii* (A.A. Eaton) J.H. Schaffn. [FNA2, HC2]**

Amer. Fern J. 16: 46. 1926.
Nelson's horsetail

FNA2: "*Equisetum x nelsonii*, the hybrid between *E. laevigatum* and *E. variegatum*, is often mistaken for small forms of *E. x ferrissii*."

***Equisetum palustre* L. [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 2: 1061. 1753.
marsh horsetail

Equisetum palustre L. var. *americanum* Vict.

FNA2: "The name *Equisetum palustre* var. *americanum* has been used for specimens from the flora that have longer teeth than those from Eurasia."

***Equisetum pratense* Ehrh. [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Hannover. Mag. 22: 138. 1784.
meadow horsetail

***Equisetum scirpoides* Michx. [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2: 281. 1803.
sedgeliike horsetail, dwarf scouring rush

***Equisetum sylvaticum* L. [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Sp. Pl. 2: 1061. 1753.
wood horsetail, woodland horsetail

***Equisetum telmateia* Ehrh. [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Hannover. Mag. 21: 287. 1783.
giant horsetail

ssp. *braunii* (J. Milde) Hauke [FNA2, HC2]

Nova Hedwigia. 30: 434. 1978.
giant horsetail, great horsetail

Equisetum maximum Lam., misapplied
Should verify status of *Equisetum maximum*.

Equisetum telmateia Ehrh. var. *braunii* (J. Milde) J. Milde [HC]

***Equisetum variegatum* Schleich. ex F. Weber & D. Mohr [FNA2, HC, HC2]**

Bot. Taschenb. 60, 447. 1807.

variegated horsetail, northern scouring rush

ssp. *alaskanum* (A.A. Eaton) Hultén [FNA2, HC2]

Acta Univ. Lund. 37(1): 59. 1941.

Alaskan scouring rush

Equisetum variegatum Schleich. ex F. Weber & D. Mohr var. *alaskanum* A.A. Eaton [HC]

ssp. *variegatum* [FNA2, HC2]

Bot. Taschenb. 60, 447. 1807.

variegated horsetail, northern scouring rush

Equisetum variegatum Schleich. ex F. Weber & D. Mohr var. *variegatum* [HC]