

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.

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]

