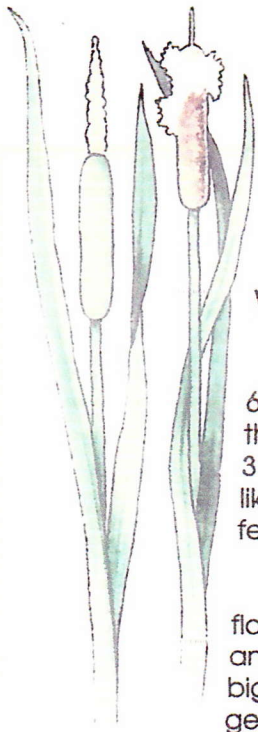


CATTAIL



The name "cattail" comes from the shape of the fuzzy flowers, which some people think look like cats' tails.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

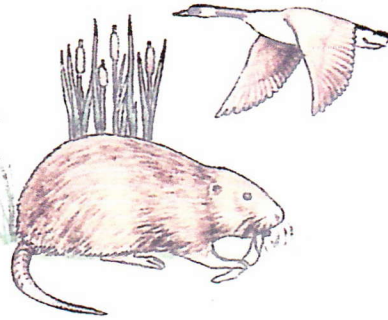
Cattail stems grow up to 6 feet tall. The whole plant is thin. The leaves are less than 3 inches wide. They stick up like ribbons and can grow 3 feet long.

Each plant grows two flower spikes. One is above, and is less noticeable than the bigger spike below it. The bigger one starts out green and turns dark brown. It looks like a large hot dog.

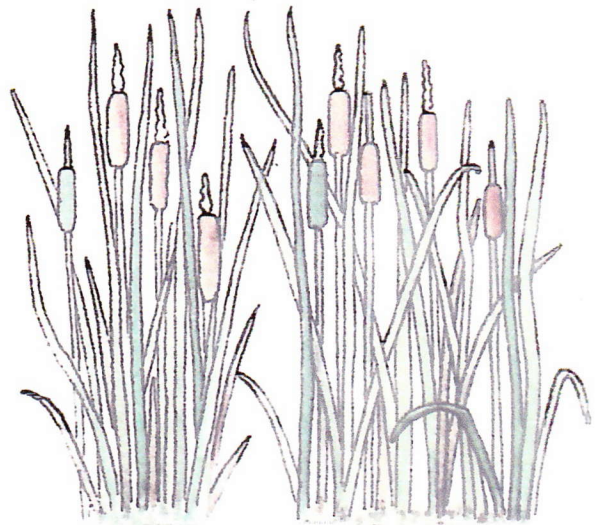
The seeds are cottony yellow inside the brown spikes. In autumn, the spikes burst open and the fluffy seeds blow away.

Look for green cattail shoots in late spring, when they poke out of shallow water. The brown, fuzzy flowers are easily spotted swaying in summer, autumn and winter winds.

Cattails grow throughout the United States in wet places such as ponds, streams, swamps and ditches.



Geese eat the seeds and roots.
Muskrats also eat the roots.



Check to see how deep the water is before you step into it.