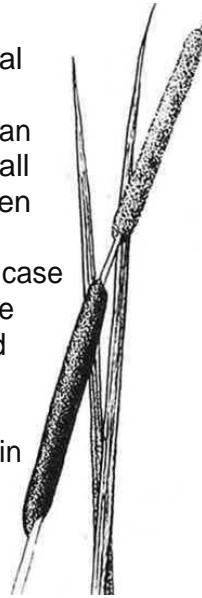


Common Wetland Plants of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Demonstration Wetlands

Cattail

Typha sp.

The common cattail is a widely distributed perennial that is a wetland native. These herbaceous plants can grow 4 to 7 or more feet tall and have long, slender, green leaves that look like giant blades of grass. The seed case is brown and about the size and shape of a hotdog, and when opened, seeds are distributed by the wind. Cattails are always found in or near water and often form extensive, clear stands in shallow, freshwater marshes, ponds, and creeks.



Slender

Popcorn Flower

Plagiobothrys stipitatus

This small, yet easily recognized native annual grows from 4 to 18 inches tall. Its stems are somewhat fleshy and hollow and terminate in a coiled cluster of tiny white flowers. Slender popcornflower grows in seasonally inundated areas and may be observed in early spring.

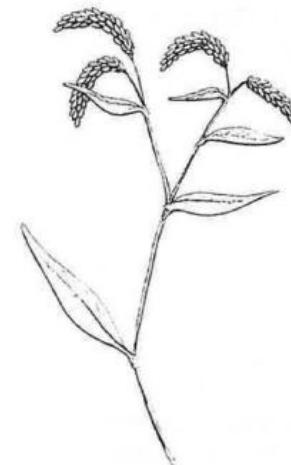


Pale Smartweed

Polygonum lapathifolium

Pale smartweed is an annual native of damp marshy places and ditchbanks. It grows to about 2 to 4 feet in height. The leaves are lance-shaped and often marked with a purplish spot on its upper surface. Flowers are white

and form a dense spike-like, terminal cluster 1 to 2 inches long.



Meadow Barely

Hordeum brachyantherum

Meadow barley is a native perennial grass of seasonally to permanently moist areas. It grows upright to about 2 feet tall. Its seed head is a 2 to 4 inch spike that somewhat resembles a fox's tail.



Swamp Timothy

Crypsis schoenoides

Swamp Timothy is an introduced European annual grass that has been widely used for waterfowl and livestock forage. It typically occurs in seasonally inundated or saturated wetlands. This is most easily recognized by its mat-like growth pattern and dense seed head with pinkish anthers.



Whiteflowered Navarretia

Navarretia leucocephala

Generally found in seasonally inundated wetlands, white-flowered navarretia is a native annual growing only 1 to 8 inches tall. Its white blossoms form a dense, terminal, dome-like cluster about an inch across. Its leaves are distinctly divided into linear segments that are pinnately lobed.



Bearded sprangletop

Drawings by
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Text by Barry Baba

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Willow

Salix sp.

Usually a shrub, sometimes a small tree, willows grow to about 6 to 30 feet tall. Leaves are generally 2 to 6 inches long, somewhat slender, and gray-green to shiny-green in color. Four species of willow are present on the wildlife area, all are native and occur along ditches, ponds, and other perennially wet sites.

Fremont Cottonwood

Populus fremontii

Commonly reaching heights of 60 to 90 feet, the native cottonwood tree is known for its massive size and smooth green, rounded to triangular-shaped leaves. Its bark is smooth and pale gray with faded white specks when young, becoming uniformly gray-brown and deeply furrowed as it matures.



Curly Dock

Rumex crispus

Common in seasonally moist to wet sites, curly dock is a stout perennial herb growing 2 to 4 feet tall. It has a large tap root and its leaves are mostly basal with curly or waxy margins. Curly dock, a non-native, is perhaps most recognized by its clusters of three sided seeds which turn brown or rust-colored in summer.



Water Primrose

Ludwigia peploides

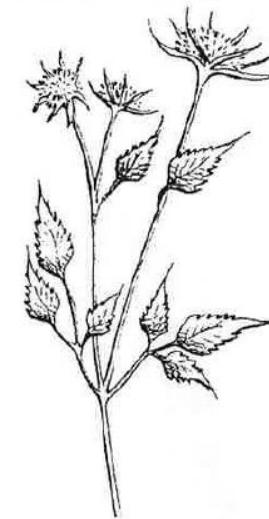
The bright yellow, five petaled flowers and shiny green leaves of this native plant appear on creeping or floating stems which grow up to 10 feet in length. Water primrose is easily spotted from June through October covering pond margins and ditches.



Hardstem Bulrush (Tule)

Scirpus acutus

Hard-Stem Bulrush is a common, persistent emergent native wetland plant, found in shallow or deep freshwater or brackish marshes. The erect, leafless stems are cylindrical, dark olive to bluish green and can grow to a height of 6 feet. Grass-like in appearance, similar to the cattail, the bulrush has a solid, round stem rather than a hollow flat stem. These two features help to distinguish the cattail from the tule, particularly when these two wetland plants are associated with one another in the same area.



Sticktight

Bidens frondosa

Sticktight is a native annual growing 2 to 3 feet tall. It has pinnately compound leaves with serrated edges. Its flowers are a dull orange and often hidden by subtending phyllaries. Bidens bears a distinctive fruit with barbs which easily sticks to clothing and fur.



Valley Downingia

Downingia pulchella

This showy little plant appears for only a short time in areas that begin drying in early spring. The flowers of this native downingia are very unique and colorful. Three of its lower petals are fused together and form a trio of colors with bluish-purple along the edges to white and yellow in the center.



California Box Elder

Acer negundo var. californicum

Reaching 30 feet or more in height, this native tree has opposite compound leaves that hang on long slender stems. Each leaf is made up of three leaflets that are lobed and coarsely toothed. Winged seeds called samaras hang from female trees in summer and sometimes last into winter.