Field horsetail

*Equisetum arvense* L.

**Life cycle**
Perennial, spore-producing plant.

**Leaves**
Not present.

**Stems**
Vegetative stems are green and branch in whorls. Stems may have a bottle-brush appearance and should not exceed 2 feet in height. Stems die back to the ground in winter.

**Flowers and fruit**
Erect, unbranched, white to brown fruiting stalks (stems) bear terminal spore-releasing cones. Flowers are not produced.

**Reproduction**
Spores and prolific rhizomes.

Patch of field horsetail fruiting and vegetative stems.

Equisetaceae (Horsetail family)
Field horsetail continued

Field horsetail fruiting stalk.

Closeup of vegetative stem of field horsetail.

Field horsetail vegetative stems.

Similar weeds

**Scouringrush** (*E. hyemale* L.)

Differs by having larger evergreen stems with little or no branching. Grows only in wet areas.

Equisetaceae (Horsetail family)