EQUISETACEAE

*Equisetum arvense* L.

Eqar

field horsetail, common horsetail

FORM: Rhizomatous, colonial perennial with annual, aerial, jointed stems, producing terminal cones (1).

STEMS: Dimorphic; sterile stems: greenish, 15-60cm (6-24in) tall, branches generally whorled, ascending or spreading; fertile stems: nonbranching, white to brownish, 30cm (12in) tall, soon withering.

CONES: Blunt, 5-40mm (<2in) long, generally produced on fertile stems, but Eqar is unusual in that the late-season green stems may produce some cones.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Equisetum hyemale* (Dutch rush); *Equisetum telmateia* (giant horsetail); and other *Equisetum* species

HABITAT: Prefers damp, sandy, semi-shaded areas in fields and glades; often invades railway embankments or roadsides; difficult to exterminate.

NOTES: Cosmopolitan in distribution throughout the Northern Hemisphere; poisonous if ingested.