

EQUISETUM SYLVATICUM L.
Woodland Horsetail

FAMILY: Equisetaceae

SYNONYMS: *Equisetum sylvaticum* L. var. *multiramosum* (Fernald) Wherry; *Equisetum sylvaticum* L. var. *pauciramosum* Milde

HABIT: Perennial with annual stems, dimorphic, 3-7 dm.; sporulating late April-May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles the common *E. arvense*, but easily distinguished by its elaborate branching. Depauperate specimens may be more difficult to identify.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, in America s. to MD, WV, KY, and IA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Carroll, Geauga, Lorain, Mahoning, Portage, and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 records from Trumbull county.

HABITAT: A variety of wet situations in semi-shade; swamp forest and clearings, ditches, thickets, stream terraces.

HAZARDS: Removal of vegetation shading habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, as it tolerates moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species that is easily identified in most cases. Its state range probably is accurately known. However, it still should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

Ohio plants have occasionally been identified as varieties of *E. sylvaticum*. However, most authorities consider these variations as not worthy of taxonomic rank.

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