

BULRUSH – CATTAIL – BUR-REED SHALLOW MARSH

Site Characteristics: This community is found in basin-like depressions, backwater areas of floodplains, and shallow margins of lakes or ponds. Soils are shallow to deep, very poorly drained, consisting of peats, mucks, or mineral materials, often found in alluvium. These shallow marshes are saturated to inundated by standing water up to 6-inches in depth throughout much of the growing season. Depending on the local topographic context, this community may or may not be extensive.

Vegetation Characteristics: This is a very broadly defined community that intergrades between wet meadows and deep marshes. The vegetation is typically characterized by emergent graminoids and forbs typical of shallow marshes with varying zones dominated by emergents 1-2 m tall or by hydrophytic annual and perennial forbs <1 m tall. In the tall emergent zone, softstem bulrush, river bulrush, hardstem bulrush, narrow-leaved cattail, and broadleaf cattail may dominate. A variety of other herbaceous species may be present, such as rice cutgrass, marsh spikerush, true rush species (*Juncus spp.*), and bur-reed species. The hydrophytic annual and perennial forb zone is dominated by water plantain, common arrowhead, common bur-reed, pickerel-weed, water hyssop, and duck salad. Occasional floating-leaved aquatics are sometimes present, including mosquito fern, duckweed species, greater duckweed, and common bladderwort.

Range:

Conservation Status: G4 - Apparently Secure

Management Considerations:



Iowa NRCS Plant Community Description

This community description is a compilation of the Community Association and its over-riding Community Alliance descriptions as provided by NatureServe (www.natureserve.org/explorer). Where necessary, community descriptions were adapted as recommended by Iowa plant community experts.

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MARSH, BULRUSH - CATTAIL - BUR-REED SHALLOW						
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>	Water plantain	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	3	825000	
<i>Azolla mexicana</i>	Mosquito fern	Floating-Leaved	FERN	9		
<i>Bacopa rotundifolia</i>	Water hyssop	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	6	4000000	
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	480000	
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Marsh spikerush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	816000	
<i>Heteranthera limosa</i>	Duck salad	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	10		SC
<i>Juncus spp.</i>	True Rush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice cut-grass	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	2	544000	
<i>Lemna spp.</i>	Duckweed	Floating-Leaved	P-FORB			
<i>Polygonum amphibium emersum</i>	Water smartweed	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	3	125000	
<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	Curttop lady's thumb	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	0	251996	
<i>Polygonum pensylvanicum</i>	Pinkweed	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	0	208000	
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickerel-weed	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	7	4992	
<i>Rumex orbiculatus</i>	Great water dock	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	240000	
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Common arrowhead	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	4	128000	
<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>	Hard-stemmed bulrush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	4	206400	
<i>Schoenoplectus fluvialis</i>	River bulrush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	5	68800	
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stemmed bulrush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	3	496000	
<i>Scirpus</i> or <i>Schoenoplectus spp.</i>	Bulrush	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	Common bur reed	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	6	8000	
<i>Sparganium spp</i>	Bur-reeds	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB			
<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i>	Greater duckweed	Floating-Leaved	A-FORB	6		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved cattail	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	1	2267962	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common cattail	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-FORB	1	7559873	

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