

# DRAFT

## Common Horsetail

*Equisetum arvense* L.



*Also known as: bottle brush, field horsetail, mare's-tail, pipeweed, scouring rush*

### Quick ID:

- ◆ Jointed stems with a rhizome that is black and felt-like
- ◆ Reproduces by spores, pale green to yellow and very small
- ◆ Young plants are called sporlings.

### Habitat:

- ◆ Spores only germinate in damp soil.
- ◆ Roots may extend to 2 m in depth
- ◆ Plant is highly variable in appearance, depending upon habitat and climate.

### How It Got Here:

- ◆ A perennial native to North America

### Reasons for Concern:

- ◆ Very aggressive weed, capable of reducing a crop yield by 50%
- ◆ POISONOUS, especially to young horses
- ◆ Ingestion of this plant causes a vitamin B deficiency in animals feeding on it.
- ◆ Hay containing horsetails can be MORE TOXIC than plants found in pastures.