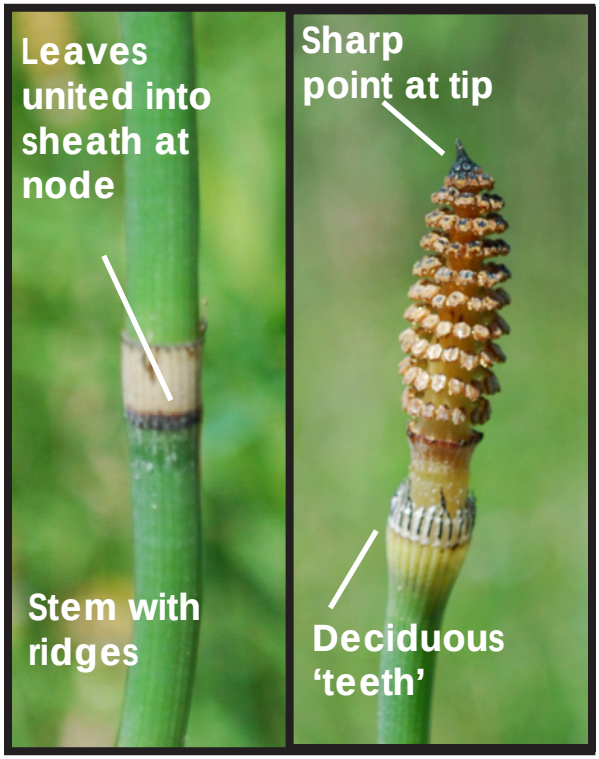
Scouring rush
Equisetum hyemale

Minnesota C-Value: 2
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW-
Native



Leaves: Reduced to a sheath at each node. Sheaths are 5-15 mm long with a dark band at the tip and usually at the base. The top of the sheath is divided into dark-colored teeth 2-4 mm long, that may be deciduous.

Stems: Green, typically unbranched, hollow, and upright. Central cavity large, at least three-quarters the size of stem diameter. Can reach 3 ft tall and 4-14 mm wide. Surface is covered in 14-50 rounded, rough ridges. Fertile and sterile stems are alike.

Flowers and fruit: Sharp-pointed cones are stalkless or short-stalked at stem tips. 1-2.5 cm long.

Plant communities: Seeps, wet to moist meadows, shores, streambanks, ditches, roadsides, along railroads.

Comments: Perennial. Can be distinguished from other *Equisetum* species by its sharp-tipped cones and lack of branching. Used by early settlers to scour pots and pans.