



## CAT-TAIL

*Typha latifolia* L.

Almost everyone is familiar with this inhabitant of ditches, ponds, and swamps. The long basal leaves are about an inch wide and crowded at the base of the stem. Thousands of small pistillate flowers make up the "cat-tail" while the staminate flowers are borne above them in a slender spike. These flowers disappear when the pollen matures, leaving only the female flowers. Plants often are over three feet in height and flower in May and June but are conspicuous throughout summer-autumn. The family includes only one genus and a few species distributed throughout the temperate and tropical world (**Typhaceae**, the Cat-Tail Family).