



*Leaves and flower spikes*

## Interesting Facts:

The cattail has many wildlife benefits – food and habitat for birds, mammals, and fish. Every part of the plant is edible. Native Americans used cattails for food, bedding, roofs, and other day-to-day items, including sandals and floor mats. The Native Americans also used roots for treating burns, inflammations, and stomach illnesses. For life vests, the U.S. Navy used the seeds as a filler material. Cattails are used in flower arrangements, and are frequently seen in water gardens.

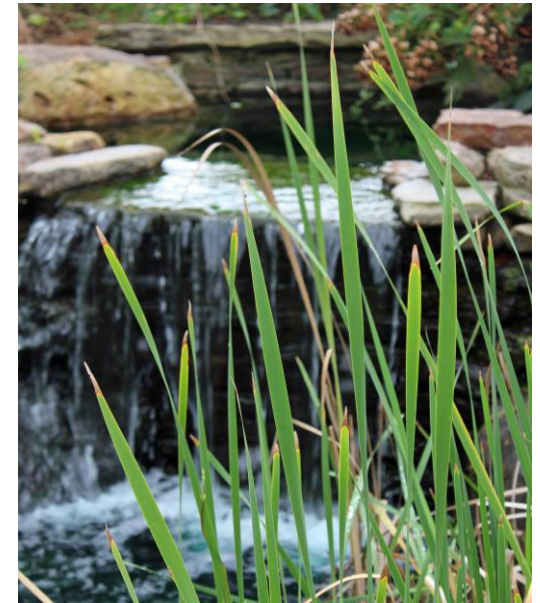
## Visitor Education Center (VEC)

### About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



*Cattail leaves*

## MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: CATTAILS

*(Typha species)*

**NMFH Visitor  
Education Center**

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Flower spike

## Description/Season:

This clumping plant has long, green leaves. Flower spikes, known as catkins, appear in the spring. They are yellow/green before turning brown.

In the fall, seeds (white fluff) appear.

## Size:

Cattails can reach heights of 7 or 8 feet.

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## Names:

There are two types of cattails – the broadleaf (*Typha latifolia*) and the narrowleaf (*Typha angustifolia*). Each is distinguished from the other by their leaves as their names suggest.

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## Habitat:

This plant is found in areas with shallow water, particularly in areas that are prone to flooding.



Seeds

## Planting Tips:

Divide roots or plant from seeds. Cattails need full sun to part shade. Plant in areas where the plant is not completely submerged. Cattails multiply quickly, forming clumps. These plants fair well in marshy areas or low areas with standing water.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.); property of MDWFP.