Wetland Plants

Hydrophytic vegetation common the North Dakota
Rushes are “round”

Sedges have “edges”
Cattail (Typha sp.)

- Long slender leaves reach 6-8 ft
- Mature, female flower is visible and resembles a sausage-shaped spike
- Emergent plant growing in wet soil or shallow water
- Occurs in shallow marsh and wet meadow zones
Burreed (Sparganium sp.)

- Grow in wet soil or in shallow water
- Long slender leaves, similar to cattail
- Seeds are dense burlike clusters
- Floating or emergent
- Occur in shallow marsh and wet meadow zones
Sago pondweed (Stuckenia pectinata)

- Stems are many branched
- Leaves are slender
- Waterfowl love it!
- Floating plant growing in shallow water
- Occurs in shallow marsh zone
Spiny naiad (Najas marina)

- Leaves coarsely toothed
- Grow submerged in water
- Favorite food of ducks
- Shelter for macro invertebrates
- Occur in deep marsh zone
Grassy Arrowhead (Alisma sp.)

- Leaves vary in shape – broad in shallow water, narrow in deep
- White flowers with yellow/green center
- Emergent
- Occurs in wet meadow zone
Broad leaved arrowhead (Sagittaria sp.)

- Broadly ovate leaves, coarsely veined
- Pinkish/whitish flowers are at end of stiff stems
- Emergent plant
- Occurs in wet meadow zone
Coontail (Ceratophyllum sp.)

- Dark, olive green
- Rootless, submerged plant
- Tips of branches are crowded with leaves giving it a “coontail” resemblance
- Occurs in shallow and deep marsh zones
Duckweed (Lemnaceae family)

- Lacking obvious stem or leaves
- Float on water surface
- Can occur in open water, deep marsh and shallow marsh zones
Bulrush (Scirpus sp.)

- Round stems
- Emergent plant
- Grows in the shallow marsh zone
Smartweed (Polygonum amphibium)

- Glossy leaves
- Clusters of pink flowers
- Emergent
- Occurs in wet meadow and low prairie zones
Sedge (Carex sp.)

- Grasslike plants
- Has “edges,” 3-ranked leaves
- Emergent plant
- Grows in wet meadow and low prairie zones
Giant Reed Grass (Phragmites sp.)

- Perennial grass
- Introduced species
- Emergent
- Occurs in wet meadow and low prairie zones
Wild Mint (Mentha sp.)

- Peppermint aroma
- Square stem
- White to purple flowers
- Occurs in the wet meadow zone
Marsh Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)

- Opposite leaves
- Pink blooms
- Toxic sap
- Occurs in wet meadow zone
Prairie Cord-grass (Spartina pectinata)

- Straight stems
- Long strong leaves, rough to touch
- Emergent
- Grows in wet meadow and low prairie zones
Aster (Aster sp.)

- White flowers
- Low prairie zone
Goldenrod (Solidago sp)

- yellow flowers (inflorescence)
- Thick leaves with moderately rough with hair
- Low prairie and upland zones
Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)

- Invasive species
- Purple flowers
- Leaves arranged opposite or in whorls of three
- Occurs in wet meadow and low prairie zones
Thistle - invasives

- Sow Thistle
- Canada Thistle
Eurasian Water Milfoil - invasive