

# Horsetail



A “living fossil” with relatives that thrived during the Devonian

period about 350 million years ago.

In certain types of light, the hollow stems appear to glow from within.



## *Equisetum hyemale*

- **Use:** *Equisetum hyemale* is a vigorous evergreen perennial with a striking vertical habit. Plants produce multiple bamboo-like dark green stems arranged in dense clumps. This handsome rush-like plant adapts to a wide variety of growing conditions but is found most often in sunny or partly shaded wetlands or water gardens. In our area we recommend only using in containers as they could become invasive spreading underground. Historically due to a high silica content, the stems have been used to scour or polish wood and metal.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Sun-part sun. Plants adapt to sandy, gravelly, clay or saturated mucky soils and sites with shallow standing water or fluctuating water levels. This species tolerates drought and acid or alkaline soil. In gardens, this aggressive plant should be confined with deep soil barriers or in pots without drainage holes. Rhizomes are extremely vigorous and have the ability to deeply penetrate the soil and grow under sidewalks or retaining walls. This species is pest resistant and unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.
- **Growth:** This species is 2-4' tall and 1-6' wide. Plants form large dense colonies from their robust rhizomes.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-9; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Very thin ridged stems and very small scaly leaves.
- **Flower:** None