Native Plant of the Month

Field or Common Horsetail
*Equisetum arvense*

- One of the most widespread plants in the world, it descends from the age of the dinosaurs.
- Horsetail is named for the shape of its leafy, bushy tail-like stalks.
- This was one of the first plants to send green shoots up through the ash of Mt. St. Helens.
- This plant colonizes on poisoned land (such as along railroad tracks) and processes heavy metals in the soil, making the soil compatible for other plants.

**Landscape Value**

Horsetail is often considered a nuisance weed in most gardens, because its rhizomatous root system makes it difficult to eradicate.

Consider planting (or encourage existing horsetail) to grow as a groundcover under deciduous trees along with flowering shrubs. Horsetail can be an attractive addition to the landscape, especially in difficult places such as rocky slopes or wet areas.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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