



Cattails and Wetland Health

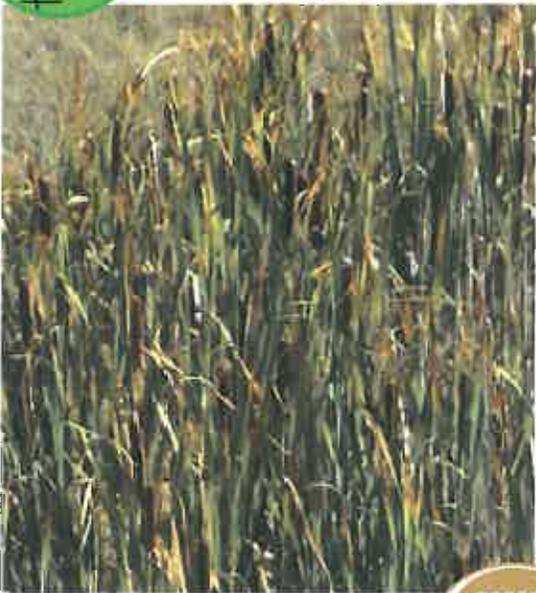


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Cattails and Wetland Health

The Colorado Department of Transportation adheres to a policy of causing no net loss of wetlands when undertaking transportation projects. The general public often associates cattails with wetlands. However, cattail presence is not necessarily a clear indicator of wetland health.

While cattails are indeed wetland plants (various species of the genus *Typha*), they can become so numerous that they harm wetland ecology. In particular, cattail infestations may reduce oxygenation and microbial activity in lakes and wetlands.

For healthy wetlands it is better to have more species diversity rather than domination by one particular type of plant.



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