

Taxonomy

Monocots-

1. Typhaceae - commonly called the Cattail Family (aceae ending means family). These are emergent, rhizomatous, found in fresh or brackish waters.

- *Typha* (genus) *domingensis* (species): This is the species found in AZ.
- *Typha latifolia*

2. Potamogetonaceae - the Pondweed Family. This family is rooted and submerged.

- *Potamogeton*: commonly known as Pondweeds; many species are found.
- *Ruppia*: commonly known as Widgeon grass; found in fresh or brackish waters.
- *Zannichelia*: commonly known as Horned Pondweed; found in fresh or brackish waters.
- *Zoetia*: marine seagrass.
- *Halodule*: marine seagrass.
- *Cymodocea*: marine seagrass.
- *Phyllospadix*: marine seagrass.

3. Najadaceae - the Naid Family. This family is also rooted and submerged; there is only one genus.

- *Najas marina*: commonly known as the spiny naid; found in brackish waters. Typically known as a problem plant because it grows coarse and very quickly.

4. Hydrocharitaceae - the Frogbit Family. This family is rooted and submerged, and is found in fresh and marine waters.

- *Anacharis densa*: commonly known as Waterweed, also called Elodea. A very common aquarium plant, considered a problem plant in freshwater lakes.
- *Halophila*: found in marine habitats.
- *Thalassia*: commonly known as Turtlegrass (another type of seagrass); found in marine habitats.
- *Vallisneria*: commonly known as Wild Celery, a common food for ducks and other water fowl; found in freshwater.

5. Gramineae (Poaceae)- the Grass Family. Grasses can be identified by the swollen base of each leaf where it meets the stem. This is called a ligule. There are 22 genera, important ones are listed. Most of these are emergent and rooted.

- *Phragmites australis*: commonly known as the Giant Reed, similar to Arundo; found in freshwater.
- *Paspalum*: used as turf grass; found in fresh and brackish waters.
- *Panicum*: panicles.

- *Zizania*: wild rice.
- *Spartina*: commonly known as marsh cord grass; found in marine habitats
- *Distichlis*: commonly known as Palmeris grass (a type of saltgrass); found in marine habitats.
- *Monanthochloe*: a type of salt-flat grass; found in marine habitats.

6. Cyperaceae - the Sedge Family. Sedges have a characteristic fruit near the tip called an achene. They also have a small section of plant above the fruit called an involucre. These plants are emergent and rooted.

- *Scirpus olneyi*: commonly known as Bulrush, with a triangular stem; found in fresh or brackish waters.
- *Scirpus validus*: commonly known as Great Bulrush, with a round stem; found in fresh or brackish waters.
- *Carex*: many sedge species; mostly found in temperate zones.
- *Cyperus*: commonly known as the umbrella plant with a bunch of involucre at the top.
- *Cladium*: commonly known as the sawgrass of the everglades.
- *Eleocharis*: commonly known as spike rush.

7. Lemnaceae - the Duckweed Family. This family is free-floating, minute and found in freshwater. There are other genera that are not listed here.

- *Lemna major/minor*: commonly known as the duckweed. *Lemna major* is only slightly bigger than *minor*. This plant is used in constructed wetlands because it grows like wild.

8. Araceae - the Arum Family. Arums are monocots, although some do not appear to have parallel veins (this may be a modified leaf tip). These plants are rooted and emergent.

- *Peltandra*: commonly known as elephant ear, it has large arrow shaped leaves.
- *Pistia*: commonly known as water lettuce, it is a floating plant that grows in clumps of huge leaves.

9. Pontederiaceae - the Pickerelweed Family. This family has both emergent and floating plants.

- *Eichornia crassipes*: commonly known as Water Hyacinth.
- *Pontederia*: commonly known as Pickerelweed.

Dicots -

10. Ceratophyllaceae - the Hornwort Family. This family has no roots, but is mostly submerged. The tips of this plant break off and settle to the bottom of a lake at the end of

the fall season. In spring, the tips grow out into new plants. These plants get very dense and form mats on the surface of the water.

- *Ceratophyllum demersum*: commonly known as hornwort; this is the only genus, there is another species.