

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Mixed forb marsh

This is a highly variable type dominated by broad-leaved plants. This community type occurs in a variety of landscape settings, from freshwater tidal systems to inland wet meadows. Characteristic species include *Dulichium arundinaceum* (three-way sedge), *Polygonum arifolium* (halberd-leaved tearthumb), *P. sagittatum* (arrow-leaved tearthumb), *Rumex* spp., (dock), *Juncus acuminatus* (sharp-fruited rush), *Bidens* spp. (beggar-ticks), *Impatiens capensis* (jewelweed), *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern), *Sagittaria latifolia* (arrowhead), *Carex stricta* (tussock sedge), *Acorus calamus*^s, and *Leersia oryzoides* (rice cutgrass). The invasive species *Phragmites australis*^(I) (common reed) and *Lythrum salicaria*¹ (purple loose-strife) are frequently a major problem in these systems.

Related types: This type is distinguished from the various graminoid-dominated marsh types by its broad-leaf dominants. The "Herbaceous vernal pond" community is related to this, but occurs exclusively in upland depressions that dry out substantially to completely in the dry season. There is also a difference in species composition.

Range: Entire state.

Selected references: Schuyler, Anderson, and Kolaga 1993.

[Crosswalk: Smith's "Freshwater Intertidal Marsh Community" (although here not restricted to tidal areas), TNC-includes several alliances.]