

Native  
Aquatic  
Emergent  
Plant

# BROADLEAF ARROWHEAD

*Sagittaria latifolia*



## About

Both the common and Latin name of this species refers to the distinctive shape of its leaves, resembling arrows! The Arrowhead family typically has narrow leaves, however *Sagittaria latifolia* has striking broad leaves, making it unique. You'll find this species in shallow areas of lakes along shorelines, likely in full sun.



## Identification

- Grows to a height of 125 cm above water level
- Leaves are broad and arrow-shaped which sit at the end of long petioles
- Leaves measure up to 30 cm long and 15 cm wide
- Flowers are showy and white in colour, blooming from mid to late summer
- Flowers have three rounded petals in whorls of three
- Male flowers have bushy yellow stamens, while female flowers have clusters of green carpels

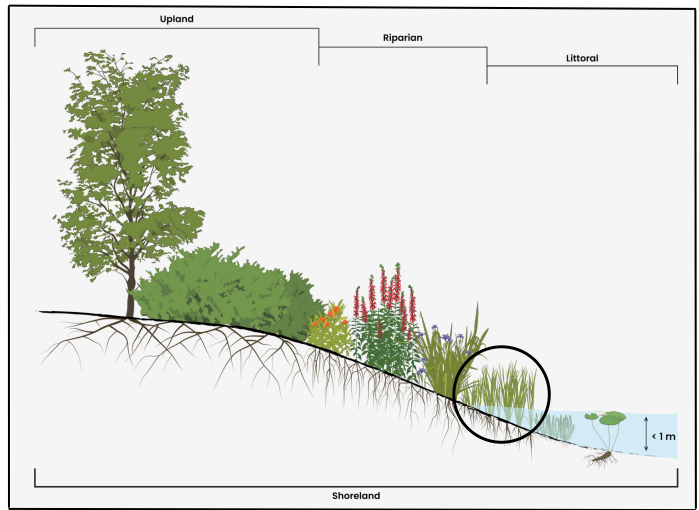
#### References

Cattails and other wetland plants produced by [High Park Nature Biology and Management of Sagittaria latifolia for Wetland Restoration and Creation by Joy E. Marburger](#)  
Invasive Aquatic Plant Species developed by [Ontario's Invasive Species Awareness Program](#)

Photo 1 by Julie Filiberti via iNaturalist

# Where is this species found in the shoreland?

Broadleaf Arrowhead is found in the littoral zone of the shoreland, as shown in the diagram. It thrives in wet soil or shallow water up to 15 cm deep.



**Did you know** that another common name for the Broadleaf Arrowhead is Duck Potato? This name refers to the starchy rhizomes that grow underwater, resembling potatoes! Many animals eat these rhizomes, and it was a favored food by Indigenous peoples and early settlers.



## Benefits

- Food source as muskrats, porcupines and waterfowl eat its starchy roots
- Improves water quality by retaining phosphorus and heavy metals
  - Commonly used for wetland enhancement and restoration projects
- Provides habitat for bass and waterfowl, as well as shelter for macroinvertebrates
- Resilient species as it tolerates high levels of nutrients



## Don't weed me!

Broadleaf Arrowhead is a beautiful native species that is beneficial to our ecosystems. To protect this species, it is important to not confuse native species with invasive look-alikes. Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) may be easily confused with Broadleaf Arrowhead. Water Hyacinth is found floating in several feet of water, whereas Broadleaf Arrowhead is found emerging within the littoral zone. The flowers have six blue-violet petals, with a distinguished petal featuring a yellow spot.