

Common tule

Cyperaceae

Schoenoplectus acutus

var. occidentalis



Sun: Full Sun

Water: Moderate, High

Soil: Clay, Loam, Sand

Other: Attracts Birds, Deer Resistant, Erosion Control

Ecological Value:

Tules at shorelines play an important ecological role, helping to buffer against wind and water forces, thereby allowing the establishment of other types of plants and reducing erosion.

Historical Uses:

Dyed and woven, tules are used to make baskets, bowls, mats, hats, clothing, duck decoys, and even boats by Native American groups.

Native Distribution:

Native to California and is also found elsewhere in North America and beyond.

Elevation:

Below 7500 ft

Plant Communities:

Freshwater Wetlands, wetland-riparian

In the Garden

Common tule is found along marshes and shorelines in waters up to 1.5 m deep. Plants grow up to 8' tall.

This plant provides food, cover, and nesting habitat for waterfowl and other birds. It acts as a buffer for wind and wave action and is currently used for bank stabilization and to treat contaminated water.

Native Americans used roots, pollen, and flowering spikes as food. Stems were used to make baskets, decoys, and boats.

Habitat:

Marshes, lakes and streambanks

