Field horsetail

*Equisetum arvense*  
Horsetail Family

### Key identifying traits
- Plants grow erect 1-2’ tall
- It has a cone-bearing stem which pops up in early spring and is a tan to brown color growing 6-12” tall with a cone on the top
- Plants have whorls of slender green jointed branches
- Plants have spreading underground rhizomes that produce many shoots and tubers

### Biology and ecology
- A perennial plant spreading by spores and rhizomatous roots
- Scouring rush is a native of the U.S.
- It is considered toxic to livestock, especially horses, but is usually not eaten by animals
- The plant contains several chemicals which can be used medicinally
- Usually thought of as a wetland plant but we have noticed it growing in drier areas as well

### Control
**Prevention** - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season
**Biological** - No known biological control in our area
**Cultural** - Plant competitive grass or other cover crops
**Mechanical** - Cultivation does not work as it will grow from the root fragments and rhizomes
**Chemical** - Refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) which lists Telar and MCPA as well as a few other herbicides for the control of field horsetail

### Where found
Small populations of field horsetail are scattered through Stevens County but not any large dense areas known to be here.