**Sagittaria latifolia**

**broadleaf arrowhead**

- **Family**: Alismataceae
- **Origin**: Native
- **WIS Code**: OBL, CoC 4

**DESCRIPTION**

This spongy perennial plant has distinct arrow-shaped leaves with two backward pointing basal lobes. Leaves vary in size and width from broad to very narrow. Flowering stems (to 0.6 m tall) grow from starchy edible corms (bulb-like underground stem structures). Stems, and leaves and leaf stalks are smooth.

**FLOWERS AND FRUITS**

July through September. Flowers (both male and female) are whorled (three per group) along a spike-like stem (two to eight groups per stem). Both genders (0.5 to 2 cm wide) have three broad white petals and three small pale green sepals. Female flowers have a ball-like green center, while male flowers have a center of bright yellow stamens. Fruit clusters are round, ball-like containing the beaked achenes (seeds).

**HABITAT**

Shallow water edges in marshes, swamps, streams, ponds, floodplain forests, and disturbed wetlands.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

*Sagittaria australis*, longbeak arrowhead, differs in the achene beak; it is horizontal on *S. latifolia* and erect on *S. australis*. *S. latifolia* has stem bracts 4-12 mm long, *S. australis* has bracts 10-30 mm long. *S. australis* has sharply five-angled leaf-stalks.