

The Dyke Marsh is very shallow, and most of it is emergent during ebbtide. The tide has a normal fluctuation of about 2½ to 3 feet, but only during periods of prolonged drought does a very slight trace of brackish water back up into this section from the lower Potomac. The vegetation is composed entirely of fresh-marsh or swamp species. In spite of the fact that much of the marsh is dominated by narrowleaf cattail and could be benefited by a moderate increase in water levels, its channel borders and deeper pockets, as well as its swampy edges, have a fascinating assemblage of moist-soil plants, including many Old World species that probably have been established as waifs in the course of generations of water-borne trade.

The following lists of plants noted in the marsh and along its moist borders, even though the growing season was past, indicates the richness of the flora :

MARSH PLANTS AND MOIST-SOIL HERBS

*=fair duck food, **=good, ***=excellent

Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) locally common.

Narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) dominant.

*Broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) locally abundant.

***Wildrice (*Zizania aquatica*) occasional to locally abundant.

***Rice cutgrass (*Learsia oryzoides*) abundant.

**Walter's wild millet (*Echinochloa walteri*) locally common.

Makino grass (*Arthraxon hispidus*) locally abundant.

***Fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*) rare.

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) rare.

Gama-grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) occasional.

**Cyperus sedges (*Cyperus erythrorhizos*, *C. odoratus*, and *C. brevifolius*) locally abundant.

**Common three-square (*Scirpus americanus*) occasional.

**River bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*) locally abundant.

Arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*) locally abundant (excellent for wood ducks).

Sweetflag (*Acorus calamus*) locally abundant.

*Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) locally abundant.

Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) locally common.

Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) occasional.

Common dayflower (*Commelina communis*) locally common.

**Asiatic dayflower (*Aneilema keisak*) rare.

Wood-nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) locally common.

Richweed (*Pilea pumila*) locally abundant.

**Halberd-leaf tear-thumb (*Polygonum arifolium*) abundant.

**Arrow-leaf tear-thumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*) locally abundant.

***Dotted smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*) common.

**Asiatic smartweed (*Polygonum cespitosum*) locally abundant.

***Tidmarsh waterhemp (*Acnida cannabina*) occasional.

**Spatterdock (*Nupher luteum*) locally common.

Lizard's-tail (*Saururus cernuus*) locally abundant.

Marsh-cress (*Rorippa palustris*) occasional.

Potato-bean (*Apios americana*) locally common.

*Jewelweed (*Impatiens biflora*) abundant.

Rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) occasional.

Fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*) locally common.

Hedge bindweed (*Convolvulus sepium*) locally common.

*Dodder (*Cuscuta* sp.) abundant parasite on Jewelweed.

Bur-cucumber (*Sieyos angulatus*) locally abundant.

Ironweed (*Vernonia* sp.) locally common.

Climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*) locally abundant.

Wing-stem (*Actinomeris alternifolia*) locally common.

Beggar-ticks (*Bidens laevis*) locally abundant.

Swamp sunflower (*Helenium autumnale*) occasional.

WOODY PLANTS

Black willow (*Salix nigra*) locally common.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) locally common.

*Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*) occasional.

River locust (*Amorpha fruticosa*) locally abundant.