

Meadow Marsh

Marshes

Marshes in the eastern boreal forest are often found as a transition between open water and shorelines.

Water levels fluctuate seasonally and water sources come from precipitation and associated run-off, groundwater and stream inflow. Salt marshes are influenced by tides and storm surges.

Ecological Benefits

- * Most biologically diverse but the least common boreal wetland
- * Marshes moderate flooding and minimize soil erosion
- * Filter and trap nutrients and neutralize a number of contaminants
- * Vital habitat for many wildlife such as waterfowl, moose and beaver

Type of Marshes

- * *Emergent marshes*: dominated by flood tolerant cattail and rushes; located between deeper open water and meadow marshes
- * *Meadow marshes*: dominated by sedges and grasses; less flood tolerant and occupy shallow water areas
- * *Salt marshes*: dominated by salt tolerant herbaceous plants; located in intertidal zones, regularly flooded by brackish water or seawater



Green-winged Teal



Beaver



American Black Duck



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Emergent Marsh

Meadow Marsh



Cattail

Identifying Characteristics

Vegetation

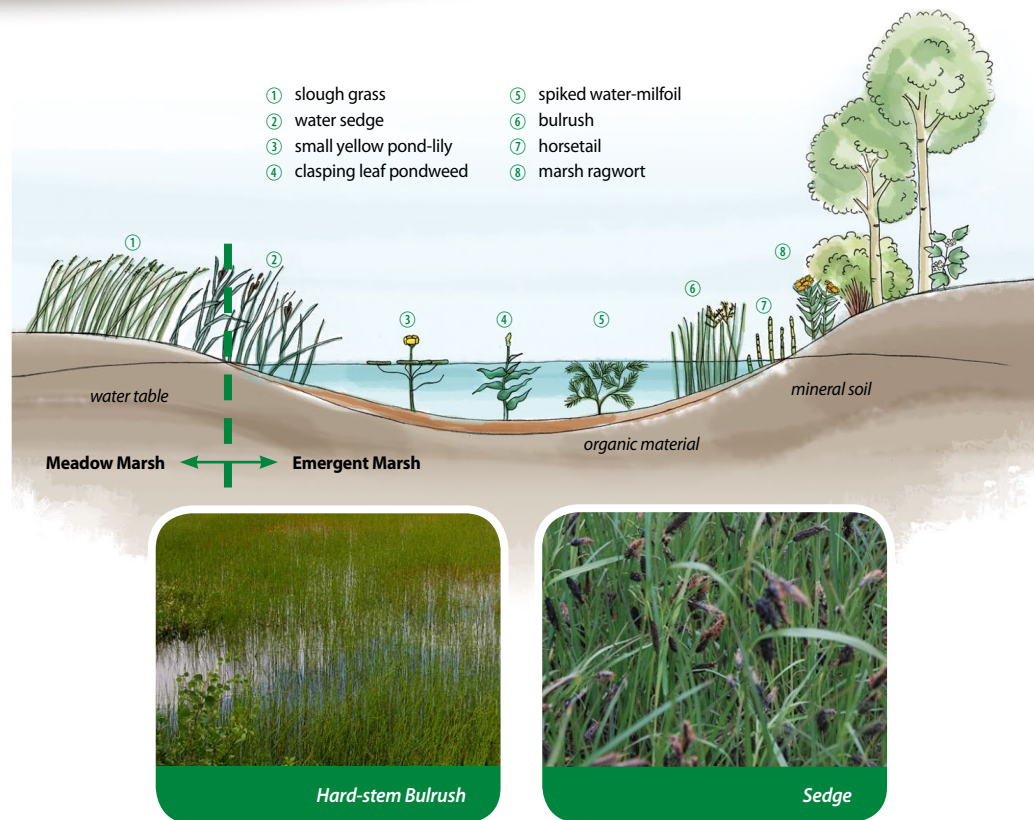
- * Emergent vegetation (e.g. cattail, bulrush and sedges) occupies more than 25% of the area interspersed with open water
- * Floating vegetation (e.g. pondweeds and milfoil) occupies open water

Hydrology

- * *Water levels:* fluctuate seasonally and can periodically dry out
- * *Water sources:* precipitation, run-off, groundwater and streams; seawater for some coastal marshes

Soil

- * Mineral based soils with shallow organic deposits (< 40 cm)
- * Nutrient rich soils resulting from periodic drying out and exposure to oxygen



Resources

- * Ducks Unlimited Canada in the Boreal Forest – borealforest.ca
- * Ducks Unlimited Canada Natural Values Fact Sheet Series – ducks.ca/learn-about-wetlands/what-wetland
- * North American Wetlands Conservation Council: WetlandNetwork – wetlandnetwork.ca



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