DISTRIBUTION OF INVASIVE CATTAILS IN SASKATCHEWAN'S WETLANDS

RESEARCH SUMMARY | OCTOBER 2026
DIGSS Research Team @ USask

KEY FINDINGS

The invasive cattail species, *Typha x glauca* (*T. glauca*) and *Typha angustifolia* (*T. angustifolia*), are found further north in Saskatchewan than previously documented (Fig. 1).

Several surveyed sites contained multiple cattail species, indicating ongoing hybridization and competition with the native species, *Typha latifolia* (*T. latifolia*). 23 of the 47 surveyed sites had a presence of *T. glauca* (Fig. 2).

Small shifts in soil properties between areas with native and hybrid/invasive cattail species were observed, particularly in pH and phosphorous levels. Further research is required to confirm these findings.

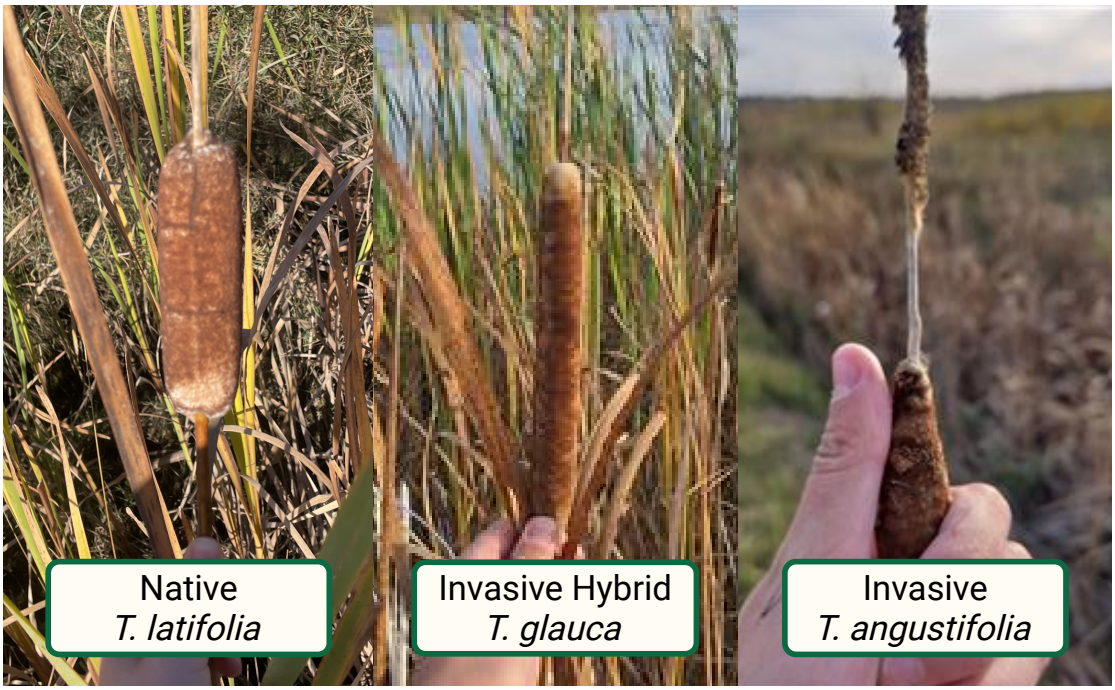


Figure 1: Comparison of the native, invasive hybrid, and invasive cattail species.

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Questions?
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Ecosystem Type

Prairie pothole wetlands

Practice Benefits

Invasive species monitoring

Research Locations

Across Saskatchewan

WHY WAS THIS RESEARCH DONE?

Update the distribution of hybrid and invasive cattail species in Saskatchewan. The hybrid species (*T. glauca*) is a hybridization of the native (*T. latifolia*) and invasive (*T. angustifolia*) species.

Assess if there are trends in soil properties associated with the native and hybrid/ invasive cattail species.

HOW CAN THIS RESEARCH BE USED?

Hybrid and invasive cattails are more prevalent than previously documented. This supports a need for future research and monitoring for cattail distribution and wetland management.

Potential relationship between soil traits and cattail populations can support future research to investigate this connection.

Thank you to all citizens who submitted survey responses and the City of Saskatoon for providing access to the Northeast Swale!

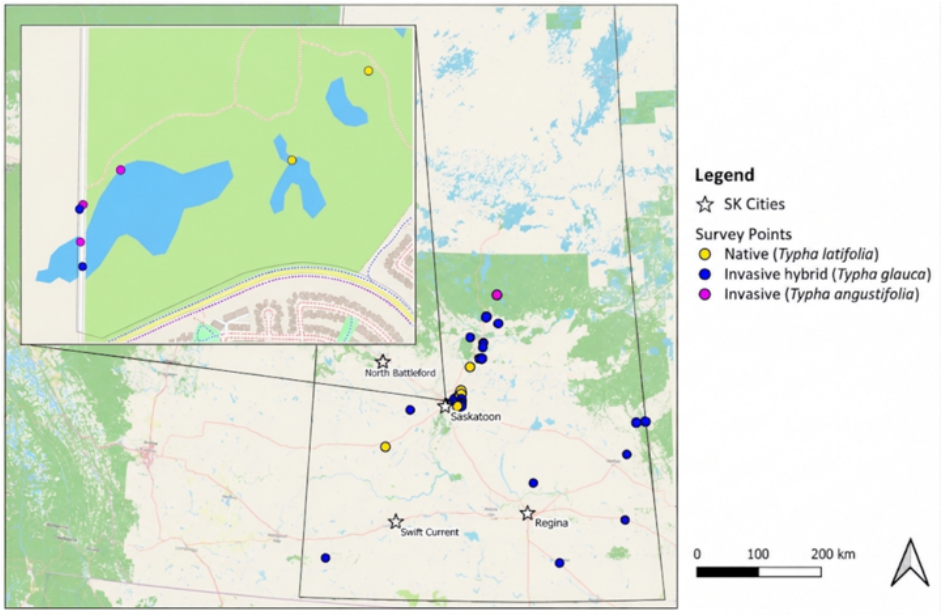


Figure 2: Map of the survey sites, with a close up of the Northeast Swale in Saskatoon.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Further research is needed to evaluate the effect *T. glauca* has on soil properties.
- This research highlights the need for proactive wetland management, monitoring, and disturbance reduction across the Prairies to protect native cattail populations and maintain ecological integrity.

HOW WAS THE RESEARCH DONE?

A citizen-science survey of cattail species was conducted for SK and image submissions were verified to confirm species' identity. Soil sampling was completed at four wetlands in central SK that had distinct areas of native and invasive/hybrid cattails. In each species area, there were three soil sampling points and at each sampling point, soil was collected from 0-15 cm and 15-30 cm depths (Fig. 3). The soil samples were analyzed for the following properties: water content, phosphorous, potassium, pH, and EC.





Figure 3: Sampling under the native (*T. latifolia*) (left) and hybrid (*T. glauca*) (right) species. Note the greater plant biomass for the hybrid species (right).

This brief is based on: Marsh J. & Chizen, C. (2026). *Soil Properties Driving Typha x glauca across Saskatchewan*. University of Saskatchewan, undergraduate thesis.

These findings and recommendations are based on research data collected and analyzed by the authors. The project funders and organizations supporting the development of this research summary, including their directors, agents, employees, and contractors, are not liable for any claims, damages, or losses arising from the use of or reliance on this information

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