

Phragmites australis

Common Reed (Phragmites)

Poaceae, the grass family
Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial grass; can grow from 6-15 feet tall
- Leaves are flat, broad, pointed, and hairless; 6 -23.6 inches long and 0.4-2.4 inches wide
- Spikelets are tawny-colored, fluffy, and flower between July-October; inflorescence persists throughout the winter
- Seeds are brown with tufts of silky hair

Background

- Native to Eurasia and Africa
- Native phragmites do occur in U.S.; only the introduced variety is noxious
- Inhabits wetlands and other shallow water areas
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes; seed viability is low, but rhizome can survive up to 6 years
- Decreases diversity, alters hydrology, and blocks sunlight

Photo Credit:

5487140 – Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

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