

Common Reed

Phragmites australis (Haplotype M)



Tall perennial grass.

Widespread in all three counties.

Grows to fifteen feet tall and forms dense stands. Leaves one to one and one half inches wide and rough to the touch. Stems remain standing long after they die. Large feathery seed head is purple red turning grayish-tan when ripe in

autumn.

Invades fresh and brackish tidal and non-tidal wetlands, river and lake edges, ditches, roadsides and disturbed areas. Prefers moist soils, but can be found in dry areas that have been disturbed.

Spreads mainly by large well established rhizomes.

Common Reed - Control Methods

At least one common introduced and extremely aggressive haplotype (genetic type M) and 11 native haplotypes of *Phragmites australis* occur in North America. Distinguishing Type M from the native haplotypes in the field is possible based on a combination of several key characteristics. For more information see <http://www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/natint.htm>

Foliar Spray – For large infestations a 0.5% solution of a wetland-approved glyphosate may be the most efficient means of control. For effective control with herbicides, healthy green leaves must be present at application time and temperatures must be above 50° F. Best success is following the emergence of bloom spikes in late summer.

Late August – Early October

Burning - Burning alone will rarely kill an established stand. If burning occurs early in the growing season it may actually stimulate growth. However, burning following herbicide application can be an effective method to remove accumulated dead plant material and stimulate regrowth of desired native plants.