

Invasive Species Alert

Common Reed

(*Phragmites australis*)

Established in Michigan

Identification:

- Warm-season perennial grass with a rigid, hollow stem
- Height ranges from 6-13 feet
- Leaves are flat, smooth, and green to grayish-green
- Flowers grow as dense, branched clusters on the end of each stem that are open and feathery at maturity



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

Habitat: Common reed, sometimes called phragmites, is often found in ditches, swales, wetlands, and on stream and pond banks.

Native Range: *Phragmites australis* is native to North America and commonly found around the world. One strain of this species is thought to be exotic or hybrid and is quickly replacing the native strain in many areas.

Local Concern: Phragmites can be difficult to walk through (for humans and wildlife) and often obstructs landowner views because of its ability to grow in tall, dense patches. The exotic strain can reduce native fish and wildlife populations, block out native salt marsh vegetation, and can be a fire danger for nearby residents.



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