



## 7 steps to controlling Invasive *Phragmites* on shorelines and wetlands in your community

*Phragmites australis subsp. australis*, also known as Common Reed, is an invasive perennial reed grass that grows into dense monocultures over 15ft tall. Stands of *Phragmites* severely impair wetlands, threaten biodiversity, reduce habitat, damage municipal and private property, and impede access to recreational activities.

### 1) Identify and Map

Be sure to identify whether it is native or invasive, and record the size and location of the site for future reference. One obvious difference is seen at the base of the stalks in mature stands. Invasive *Phragmites* feels rough and is beige, while native *Phragmites* feels smooth and has strong, red colouring on the stalks.

**Contact [info@gbf.org](mailto:info@gbf.org) if you have difficulty with identification or go to [www.gbf.org/phragmites](http://www.gbf.org/phragmites).**



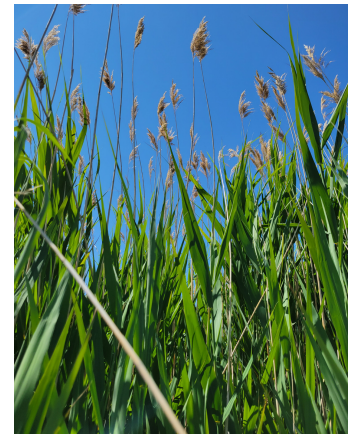
Native *Phragmites*



Invasive *Phragmites*

### 4) Timing

Remove the stalks between mid-July and mid-August before seedheads emerge in late August - October. *Native Phragmites* seedheads emerge earlier in the season (mid-July).



### 5) Cutting

If there are seedheads, remove them first and put into yard waste bags to rot out and die. Next, begin cutting on the outside of the patch and work inwards. Cut each stalk underwater as close as safely possible to the sediment (not just below the surface). Be sure to only remove the stalks and attached leaves - do not try to disturb/remove the roots. The roots are extensive and uprooting them can contribute to the spread.

### 6) Disposal

Collect all cut biomass and floating debris. Find a designated spot nearby where cut stalks can dry out and decay. You want to choose somewhere far/high enough away that rising water levels and wind/wave action will not pull it back in. You can use the twine to wrap up the material for easier transport and disposal.

### 7) Follow-up

Check the disposal site next year to ensure nothing has sprouted from the piles. Next year, check the cutting site for any regrowth and make plans to cut again. It can take 2-7 years of repetitive removal to eradicate a stand.

### 2) Create Community Group

Create a working group or network of landowners that could act as a *Phragmites* resource committee for landowners in the area and keep alert to any new or existing *Phragmites* stands.

### 3) Gather Equipment

Hand-held cutters, rubber boots, gardening gloves, eye protection, hat, PFD, natural twine, yard waste or garbage bags, transportation for disposal (i.e., sleigh, wheelbarrow, tarp) and anything else you need when working outdoors.