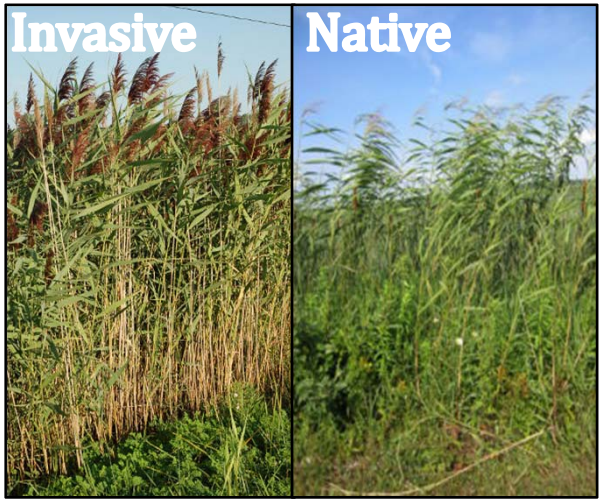
Warning: Invasive Phragmites is similar to native species. Identify the stand before implementing control measures.



Comparison of invasive and native cells (top) and seed heads (bottom).

Comparison of invasive and native stems.

EDD MapS Ontario

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System

Report a sighting:
www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

For more information visit:
www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices

Contact Us:
Phone: 613-267-1353
1-888-952-6275
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Web: www.lanarkcounty.ca

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30am – 4:30pm

LANARK COUNTY

99 Christie Lake Road
Perth, ON
K7H3C6

PHRAGMITES

(Phragmites australis subsp. australis)

Best Management Practices

LANARK COUNTY

The common name for invasive Phragmites is **European Common Reed**. Common reed grows in clumps called ‘cells’ in wet areas and reproduces by seed or rhizome (root system).

Table: Comparison of key identification characteristics for native and invasive Phragmites.

Characteristics	Native	Invasive
Stand Height	No taller than 2 meters	Up to 5 meters
Stand Density	Sparse, interspersed with native vegetation	Dense monoculture, up to 100% invasive Phragmites
Seedhead Density	Sparse, small	Dense, large
Stem Colour at Base	Reddish-Brown	Beige, tan
Leaf Sheaths	Fall off in fall, easily removed	Remain attached, difficult to remove

IMPACTS

Clogs ditches, storm drains and agricultural tiles causing flooding, property damage, and reducing crop yields

Forms dense cells preventing wildlife movement in wetlands, affects SAR

Limits shoreline access, reduces property values

Increases fire hazards and creates visibility issues at intersections

Dig

Small or **young** infestations may be removed by hand but may be very labour-intensive. When digging/hand pulling, ensure all portions of the rhizome are removed from the soil.

Mow

Mow in late July/early August, when most of the carbohydrate reserves are in the upper portion of the plant. Combine with herbicide application. Alternatively, compress or roll the dead stalks using a roller.

Burn

Following herbicide use, burn the area to remove biomass. Prescribed burning should be performed by **authorized personnel only** – obtain all necessary permits and follow all regulations.

Flood

In areas with easily controllable water levels, flood the area in late summer at a minimum of 1.5 m taller than the stand for at least 6 weeks. Alternatively, drown newly emerging plants in shallow water after cutting the stand as low as possible.

Tarp

For stands in direct sunlight, cut the plants to less than 10cm, remove dead biomass and cover the ground with a tarp to smother new growth. Leave tarp for at least 6 months and monitor the perimeter for new growth.

Spray

Apply herbicide between early spring and late fall. Remove any dead stalks to improve herbicide effectiveness. Cells may need to be treated more than once.

Tall stand of dead invasive Phragmites

Phragmites prefers standing water but is able to survive in low water areas as well. In 2005, AAFC listed Phragmites as the nation’s “worst" invasive plant.

DISPOSAL

Following removal, seal in a black garbage bag and leave in the sunlight for 1-3 weeks. Dispose of as household garbage. Alternatively, dried plants may be burned.

Invasive Phragmites spotted near Perth, ON