

Phragmites or Common Reed

(Phragmites australis)

DESCRIPTION

Perennial grass

Height: to 15 feet

Leaves: Typically 1 to 1 ½" wide

Flowers: Purplish-brown plume in late July

Fruit: Grey fluffy seeds mature in August

ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Spreads by dense network of underground rhizomes and wind-blown seed
Can quickly overtake a marsh, crowding out native plants

Thrives in sunny wetland habitats



NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Cephalanthus occidentalis Buttonbush

Typha latifolia Common Cattail

CONTROL

Mechanical: For small infestations hand pull; to control but not eliminate cut annually to less than 6" at the end of July; remove cut material.

Chemical: Roundup is most effective in late summer or early fall. Repeated treatments necessary. Wetland sites require professional application.