



Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife Fact Sheet

Both Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife have been found along our shorelines. Both are invasive plants that need to be removed. If you find either plant, or think you have found either plant, please contact Betsy Keidan, keidan@comcast.net.

Phragmites

Dense stands of phragmites can limit access to the water, block views, pose safety concerns and prevent marsh birds from nesting.

Basics:

They grow up to 15 feet tall and are able to spread over 10 feet a year

They can impair recreational use and reduce property values by limiting water access and reducing views

They can form dense stands of dry plant material that can become a fire hazard

They can negatively affect the biodiversity of the ponds

For more information: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/invasive_phragmites_australis_what_is_it_and_why_is_it_a_problem

Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is a 1-6 foot weed with purple seed heads that spreads vigorously in moist soil conditions (ie shorelines) that crowds out native wetland plants. This can lead to a reduction in plant diversity, which reduces habitat value to wildlife.

Native plants provide food and shelter to birds, fish and to a wide variety of pollinators, native bees and other beneficial species, including insects.

For more information: http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/purpleloosestrife_info



Phragmites Seed heads



Close up of Purple Loosestrife