



Help protect our natural areas for current and future generations:

INSPECT all animals, equipment, footwear, and vehicles before heading to a new site.

REMOVE all plants, animals & mud from boots, gear, pets, & vehicle before and after visiting a site.

STAY on designated roads and trails.

REPORT sightings to DCIST at dcist1@gmail.com or using the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) App.



Report Findings to Door County Invasive Species Team

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) goal is to address invasive species in order to sustain resilient ecosystems within Door County for current and future generations. DCIST is committed to providing educational resources and engagement, minimizing and preventing the introduction of new populations, and reducing the impact of existing invasive species populations.

Please help prevent the spread of invasive species by cleaning equipment and reporting invasive species using the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app or contact DCIST. By cleaning equipment, you can help halt the spread of invasive species and by reporting invasive species you can help invasive species management efforts.

For more information on invasive species in Door County please visit: <https://doorinvasives.org/>

To report an invasive species please use the GLEDN app or contact the DCIST coordinator at:

Phone: 920-746-5955

Email: DCIST1@gmail.com



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Phragmites





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What is Phragmites?

Phragmites, also known as common reed, is a herbaceous perennial grass. It is common in Wisconsin and is mainly found in wetland, shoreline, and riparian areas. Phragmites is different from other grasses because it will have white hairs where the leaves meet the stem. Phragmites can grow upwards of 20' tall and becomes very noticeable in later summer/fall when large, dense purple/brown seed heads form. It also has an impressive root system that can grow 6' deep and 10' wide.

Phragmites can disrupt natural ecosystems and processes through several ways. It consumes a lot of water resulting in lower water levels in wetlands. Because phragmites grows quickly and densely, it easily outcompetes native species. Large, dense patches can change hydrology, impede wildlife movement, alter waterfowl habitat, and decrease property values.

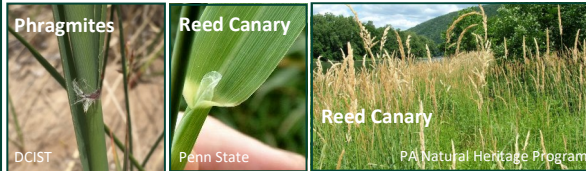


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Phragmites Look-Alikes

Phragmites can look similar to other grasses such as reed canary grass and native phragmites. The native phragmites is different from the invasive phragmites and is beneficial to ecosystems.

Reed canary grass and phragmites may look similar when phragmites is young, but phragmites will have wider leaves and much larger seed heads. Reed canary has a distinctively large ligule, (membrane where the leaf meets the grass stem) whereas phragmites has distinctive fine white fringe hairs at the top of the ligule. Reed canary grass is also invasive.



Native phragmites have smooth shiny stems and only show black, dot fungus under its leaf sheaths. Stems of native phragmites are purplish/red, and senesce (die back seasonally) earlier than its non-native counterpart. Non-native phragmites stems are ridged and a dull green, with indistinct blackish mold spots. Non-native phragmites has large, dense, thick, purple/brown/tan, seed heads approximately 6-20" long. Native plumes are feathery, small, sparse, and never purple. Both tops contain long silky hairs that remain present throughout winter.



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How to Control Phragmites

There are mechanical and chemical control options available. Please note that manual and mechanical options can be used to reduce the abundance and area of a phragmites infestation, but there are few instances of these methods being shown to completely eradicate the species from a site and these methods take many years to see results.

Mechanical/manual methods are best when populations are small. Chemical control is recommended for larger populations. Many herbicides, herbicide combinations and application methods have been tried on phragmites and work to a greater or lesser degree. Like any other weed control method, herbicides will fail if used incorrectly. Depending on population location applicators may be required to have a specialized certifications, use site specific approved herbicides, and acquire permits prior to treatment (example: treatments in aquatic habitats).

For more information about other aquatic invasive species or for control recommendations for Phragmites please use the QR code or visit the UW Extension Invasive Plants Factsheet database: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/learn/invasive-species-i-d-and-impacts/>.

