

Common reed

Phragmites australis

VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: disturbed areas; roadsides; shorelines of lakes, rivers, and ponds; marshes.

Native range: Europe



Currently not known in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: stems are green in summer and yellow in winter and are hollow. Grows to be 15' tall. Grows in dense stands of up to 200 stems per square meter.



Leaves: leaf sheaths are retained on stems into winter even if leaves drop. Leaves are 1.5" wide.



Flowers: wind-pollinated flowers bloom July-September.



Seeds: spreads through seeds, root fragmentation, runners above ground, and stem fragments.

CONTROL



Manual: ineffective but may slow the spread.



Chemical: use aquatic formulations of imazapyr or glyphosate.



Prescribed fire: after flowering fire is useful for preparing the site for herbicide application



Cultural: restore wetlands with native species to provide competition.



Mechanical: ineffective but may slow the spread.