

COMMON REED

Phragmites australis



NPS.GOV/plants/alien

Mature Height	12 to 15 feet	Soil Type	Wet areas
Mature Spread	Slender reed	Flower Color	Purple to Golden
Mature Form	Massive colonies	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green to brown (dead stalks)
Sun Exposure	Full sun		
Soil Moisture	Wet to standing water		

Common Reed is a non native alien and highly invasive plant that had its origin in Asia and Europe. It is generally found in very wet areas such as drainage ditches, roadside channels, wetlands, pond and lake edges. It spreads by seed and once started spreads rapidly by underground rhizomes. The rhizomes can grown 10 or more feet in a single growing season. Once established it can dominate the wet area reducing the capacity of drainage channels to carry flood water. It can quickly destroy the normal biological functions of a wetland. Glyphosate based herbicides seem to be the best bet for control and should be applied in the early fall after the plants bloom. It can be applied as a foliar spray or on the stems after they have been cut by mowing or other methods. It will likely take several applications over a period of years to completely eliminate the plants due to the extensive underground rhizome system.



Hoosier Heartland RC & D



USDA Plants Database



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

