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 grow 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.