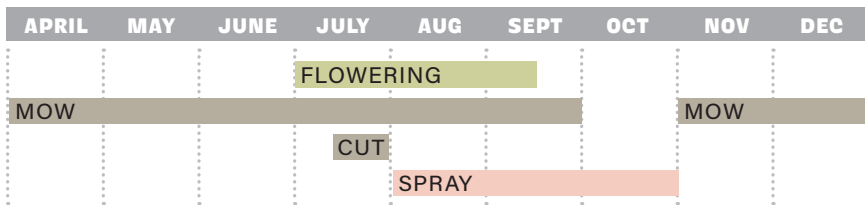


Disposal

Cut stems can be dried in the sun on a tarp until they shrivel. Small amounts can then be bagged in black plastic. Seal the bags tightly and continue to bake the bags in the sun to fully kill the plant. Phragmites stems can be long: if bagging is not an option, piling the dried stems in one place will minimize their potential spread.



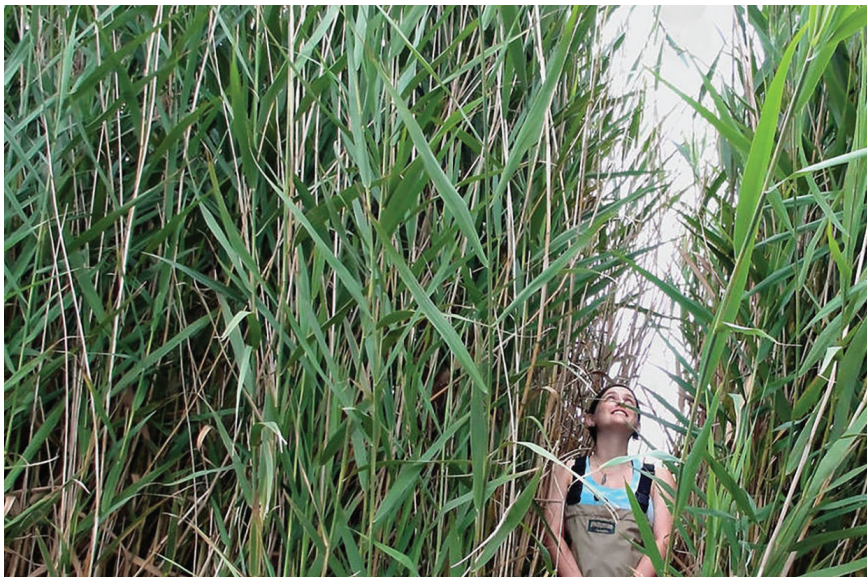
Calendar



■ Treatment, mechanical

■ Treatment, herbicidal

Adapted from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Management Calendar produced by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG).



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CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION: IDENTIFY, REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

PHRAGMITES

PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS

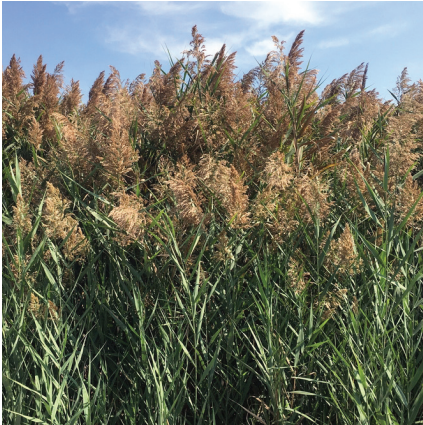


LET'S FACE PHRAGMITES

Phragmites (*frag-MY-tees*) is a towering, invasive reed found in wet areas: swamps, pond and lake edges, creek banks, and roadside ditches. Also called Common Reed, it was introduced to North America over 200 years ago. The reeds often form dense stands that block views and displace cattails and other native vegetation that support birds and other wildlife. In Cornwall, Phragmites stands can be seen year-round in many places, including Cream Hill Road near Cherry Hill Road and at the corner of Route 4 and Jewell Street, near the Cornwall post office.

Identification

From 3 to 12 feet tall, Phragmites have hollow, smooth stems with lance-shaped leaves, topped by a cluster of purple plumes in midsummer that mature into fluffy beige seedheads. They prefer full sun but tolerate partial shade. The reeds often form dense monocultures.

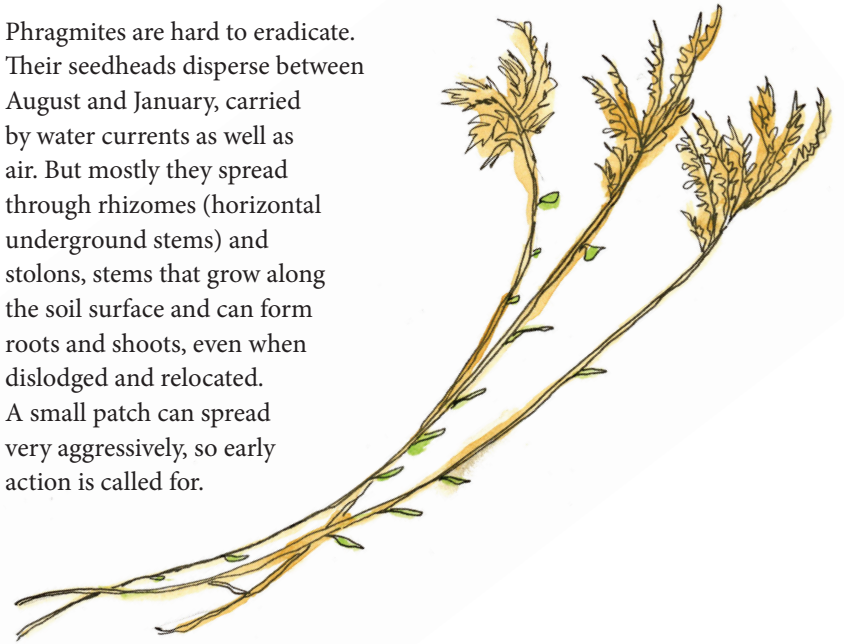


PHRAGMITES INVASIVE PLANT FACTSHEET:
UCONN Extension guide to identification, control and disposal. bit.ly/ccce_phragmites

PLANT ID APP: PictureThis (about \$40 per year / free option). The app identifies the plant from a photo and provides details.

Spread

Phragmites are hard to eradicate. Their seedheads disperse between August and January, carried by water currents as well as air. But mostly they spread through rhizomes (horizontal underground stems) and stolons, stems that grow along the soil surface and can form roots and shoots, even when dislodged and relocated. A small patch can spread very aggressively, so early action is called for.



Removal / Control

MOWING: Periodic mowing will slow the spread by weakening the plant and preventing seedheads from forming. It's a short-term solution; underground rhizomes will send up new shoots when mowing is discontinued.

CUTTING: Cut stems at the base or, for best results, cut at a 45° angle below the soil surface with a sharpened spade. Cutting in late July will maximize damage to the plant.

DROWNING: Cut the stalks at least 6 to 12 inches below water level to drown the plants. If the top of the stem remains underwater for one year, the plant will die.

HERBICIDES: Use only wetlands-approved chemicals and methods, and consider herbicide use only if other methods have failed. The time to apply herbicide is August through October when the plant can actively transport the chemical down to the root system for the maximum effect. Herbicides can harm the ecosystem, but the threat of invasive takeover can pose a far greater risk: weigh these factors carefully.