



5510407

Phragmites

Phragmites australis

- Perennial
- Grows 10 feet tall
- Invasive
- Found in wet drainage areas and ditches
- Extensive rhizomatous rootstock
- Can be a fire hazard

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Suggested Control Methods for Phragmites

Herbicide Treatment:

Active Ingredients: Glyphosate and imazapyr are common, applied with a surfactant.

Timing: Best in late summer/early fall (August-October) when plants are actively growing and before seed set, applied to regrowth after mowing.

Application: Can be sprayed (for large areas), wiped (for targeted control near desirable plants), or injected.

Mechanical Removal:

Mowing/Cutting: Effective in summer to reduce plant height, followed by herbicide on new growth, or winter mowing after treatment to expose roots. Cutting below the water surface can drown roots in shallow areas.

Removal: Dead stalks should be removed to prevent re-sprouting and promote native plant growth.

Prescribed Burning: Can be used after herbicide treatment for large, dense stands.

Integrated Management (Best Practice)

Initial Treatment: Apply herbicides, often after summer mowing.

Follow-up: Repeat herbicide and mechanical treatments annually for several years (3-5+) to manage re-sprouting from seeds and rhizomes.

Revegetation: Plant native species to outcompete Phragmites and restore habitat.

Equipment Cleaning: Clean all equipment and footwear thoroughly to avoid spreading seeds.

Important Considerations

Long-Term Commitment: Complete eradication is difficult; expect ongoing maintenance.

Safety: Wear appropriate PPE