



Treatment of Invasive Phragmites



Phragmites

Phragmites australis (frag-MY-teez), also known as common reed, is a perennial, wetland grass that can grow to 15 feet in height. While *Phragmites australis* is native to Michigan, an invasive, non-native variety of *Phragmites* is becoming widespread and is threatening the ecological health of wetlands, the Great Lakes coastal shoreline and roadside ditches. Invasive *Phragmites* creates tall, dense stands that crowd out native plants and animals, prevent roadside ditches from working properly, and obstruct motorists' views from side streets and driveways.

Additional information on invasive *Phragmites* is available from the Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative (GLPC) at <http://greatlakesphragmites.net/>. The GLPC is a regional partnership established to improve communication and collaboration and lead to more coordinated, efficient and strategic approaches to *Phragmites* management, restoration and research across the Great Lakes basin.

Invasive *Phragmites* can be controlled using an integrated pest management approach which includes an initial herbicide treatment followed by mechanical removal (e.g., cutting, mowing) and annual maintenance.

Chemical Treatment of Invasive Phragmites

The Monroe County Road Commission has contracted with a certified pesticide applicator that is licensed by the State of Michigan. The herbicides used for the chemical treatment of invasive *Phragmites* are approved by both the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and copies of the Safety Data Sheets are available at the Road Commission's office.

Mechanical Treatment of Invasive Phragmites

Mechanical treatment (i.e., mowing) of invasive *Phragmites* is recommended after chemical treatment (at least 2 weeks after for maximum effectiveness of the chemical treatment) to remove dead stems and promote native plant growth. Mowing is the most commonly used method for mechanical treatment, and the Road Commission will be performing mowing to remove the dead stems after chemical treatment of invasive *Phragmites*.