

## Have you seen this plant?

Name: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)  
 Nickname: "Phrag."



Native to Eurasia this species rapidly expanded across Ontario during the 1990s. This robust grass now has a strong foothold in wetlands across the Great Lakes basin.

### Why is Common Reed a problem?

**Loss of Habitat:** Monoculture stands result in a decrease in available natural habitat and food supply for various wildlife species, which may include Species at Risk. Common reed stalks are rigid and tough and do not allow for wildlife to easily navigate through or nest in a stand.

**Changes in Hydrology:** Common Reed produces a substantial amount of dead stocks which accumulate with time. When the plant establishes in ditches, creeks and shorelines, the slowly decomposing material can interrupt water flow and cause localized flooding and property damage.

**Increased Fire Hazards:** A stand of Common Reed has a high percentage of dead stalks. Dead stalks are dry and combustible, increasing fire risks.

**Economic and Social Impacts:** Common Reed stands can have many negative impacts to local property values. Concerns in Lambton Shores are mainly related to shoreline access, property values and tourism. Increased ditch maintenance costs, impacts to agricultural yields can cause harm to the municipal economy.

For, Municipal Council is considering funding for a regional *Phragmites* Management Plan for the Municipality of Lambton Shores. Complete eradication is not practical, but by following a few simple best management practices, the invasion can be brought under control.

In order to maximize success and minimize costs municipal staff and council request all residents of Lambton Shores become aware of the issue and ensure they are not contributing to the spread or expansion of this species.

	How to help
<b>Do you have a Garden?</b> Tall grasses are popular right now	Be aware of what is growing in your garden Refuse to plant non-native species Responsibly dispose of organic garden waste
<b>Do you drive ATVs?</b> ATVs are a known spread vector of <i>Phragmites</i>	Do not drive through Common Reed stands Be aware of where tires are while travelling past Common Reed stands Always clean your ATV before and after use
<b>Do you have shoreline property?</b> Common Reed is well established along the shores of Lake Huron	Do not trample or harm existing <i>native</i> vegetation. Common Reed quickly establishes in disturbed areas. Be especially vigilant about where stormwater pipes discharge; Common Reed stands are highly correlated with discharge pipes along the shore. Once the plant establishes it can rapidly expand along the coast and quickly block access to the water. Do not drive ATVs up and down the shore If you already have an extensive Common Reed invasion be sure to report this to the Municipality or the Lambton Shores <i>Phragmites</i> Community Group. Request your property be included in the Municipal Management Plan.
<b>Do you hike, bike, or enjoy the outdoors?</b>	Avoid trampling through Common Reed stands. Shoes and equipment can spread the invasion. Clean your shoes and equipment before entering and after leaving natural areas
<b>Do you let your dog run off leash?</b>	Common Reed stands are dangerous for dogs. They can get lost or tangled and trapped within a dense stand, or they could be cut by the sharp stalk edges.
<b>Do you own land which is heavily impacted by Common Reed</b>	Report the invasion to the Municipality or the Lambton Shores <i>Phragmites</i> Working Group. Resources, advice and suggestions can be provided Your property may be included in the long term management plan for Lambton Shores

### Contacts:

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