



Phragmites Chemical Treatment Permitting Requirements

**Eric Bacon
Aquatic Nuisance Control Program
Water Resources Division, MDEQ**

July 18, 2012

MDEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program

- State Law: Part 33, Aquatic Nuisance Control, of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451, 1994, as amended (NREPA)
- When is a permit required? With few exceptions, any herbicide treatment in:
 - Inland waters of the state (standing water)
 - Along the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair below the ordinary high water mark

Examples: inland lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, ditches, exposed Great Lakes bottomlands

ANC Permitting –

Permit vs. Certificate of Coverage (COC)

- COC for certain categories of treatment under direction of General Permits (GP) issued (e.g. invasive emergent species, ponds, Great Lakes marinas and canals)
- GP for invasive emergent species expanded in 2012 to include inland waters with the Great Lakes shoreline areas.
- Individual or Standard Permits for combination treatments (submergent and emergent), sensitive areas, or unique treatment scenario

ANC Permitting – How does it work?

- Staff: currently 4 (all in Lansing)
- In 2011, # permits/COCs reviewed = 2,359
- Application submitted to MDEQ – site information, target plants, proposed herbicides, location map
- MDEQ conducts review; decision required within 30/15 business days for permits/COCs, respectively
- MDEQ permit indicates herbicides, rates/amounts, location(s), special conditions
- New permit/COC required each year

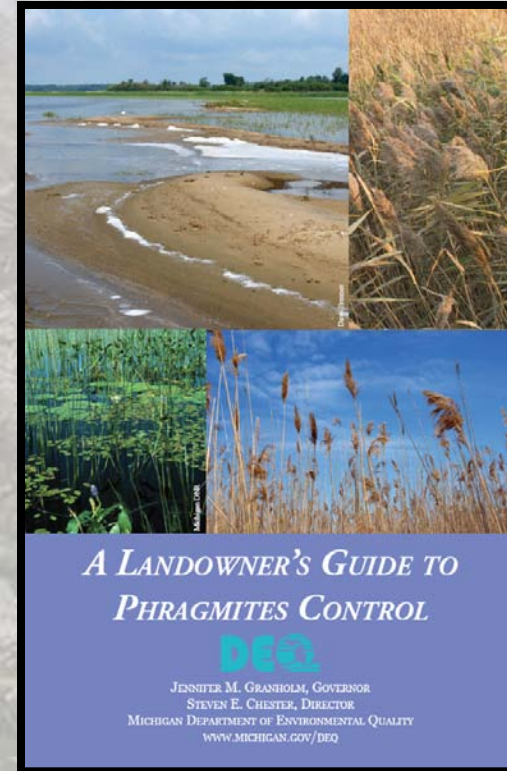
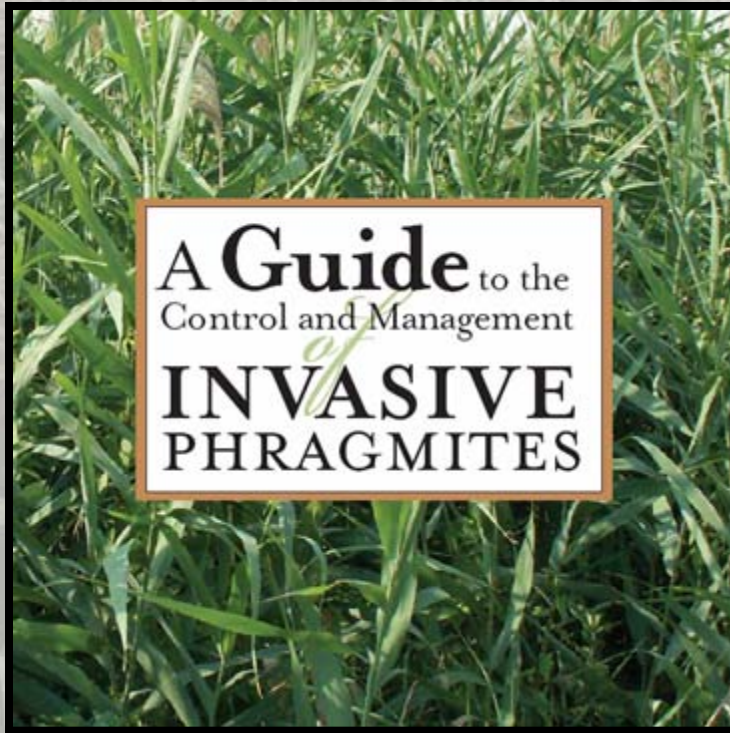
Practical Advice for Treatments

- Who can apply for a permit/COC?
 - Applicant = individual(s), homeowners association, applicator, consultant, unit of government, etc.
 - Multiple properties OK. Coordination with neighbors is beneficial – reduced cost, less recolonization from neighboring properties
- Who can conduct the herbicide treatment?
 - Depends on the herbicide (some require certification)
 - Consider hiring a licensed applicator (list of companies: www.michigan.gov/deqinlandlakes)
- Treatment method? Aim for selectivity
 - Hand wicking, wand, backpack sprayer, tractor/boom

Common ANC Questions

- Application fees?
 - COCs = \$75
 - Permits = \$75 to \$1,500 (based on treatment size)
- Are the herbicides safe? Yes.
 - Registered/reviewed by US EPA, MDA, and MDEQ Water Toxics Unit. Very few herbicides past muster for direct application to/near water.
 - Must be used according to permit & label requirements.
 - Applicator licensing, certification through MDARD
- How will I know if an area has been treated?
 - Written notifications, posting signs
- Can I chemically treat all the vegetation? No, counter-productive to invasive species control; env'l impacts

Available Resources



www.michigan.gov/deqaquaticinvasives
(Control and Management of Invasive Phragmites)

MDEQ Contact Information

Aquatic Nuisance Control Program:

Web: www.michigan.gov/deqinlandlakes

Phone: 517-241-1554

Email: deq-wrd-anc@michigan.gov

Questions?

