What is *Phragmites*?

Phragmites australis (a.k.a. common reed) is a non-native grass that aggressively invades wetlands and shorelines. Once established, it can take many years to remove

Phragmites...

- Harms ecosystems by outcompeting native plants and reducing available wildlife habitat
- Grows easily in areas frequently disturbed by human activity
- Costs millions of dollars per year to manage in the U.S.

With your help, we can reduce the spread of invasive *Phragmites* and reverse its impacts!

Great Lakes PHRAGMITES COLLABORATIVE

Learn More!

Visit our website for more information and resources:
www.greatlakesphragmites.net
Email: phragmites@glc.org
@GLPhrag

USGS science for a changing world

Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

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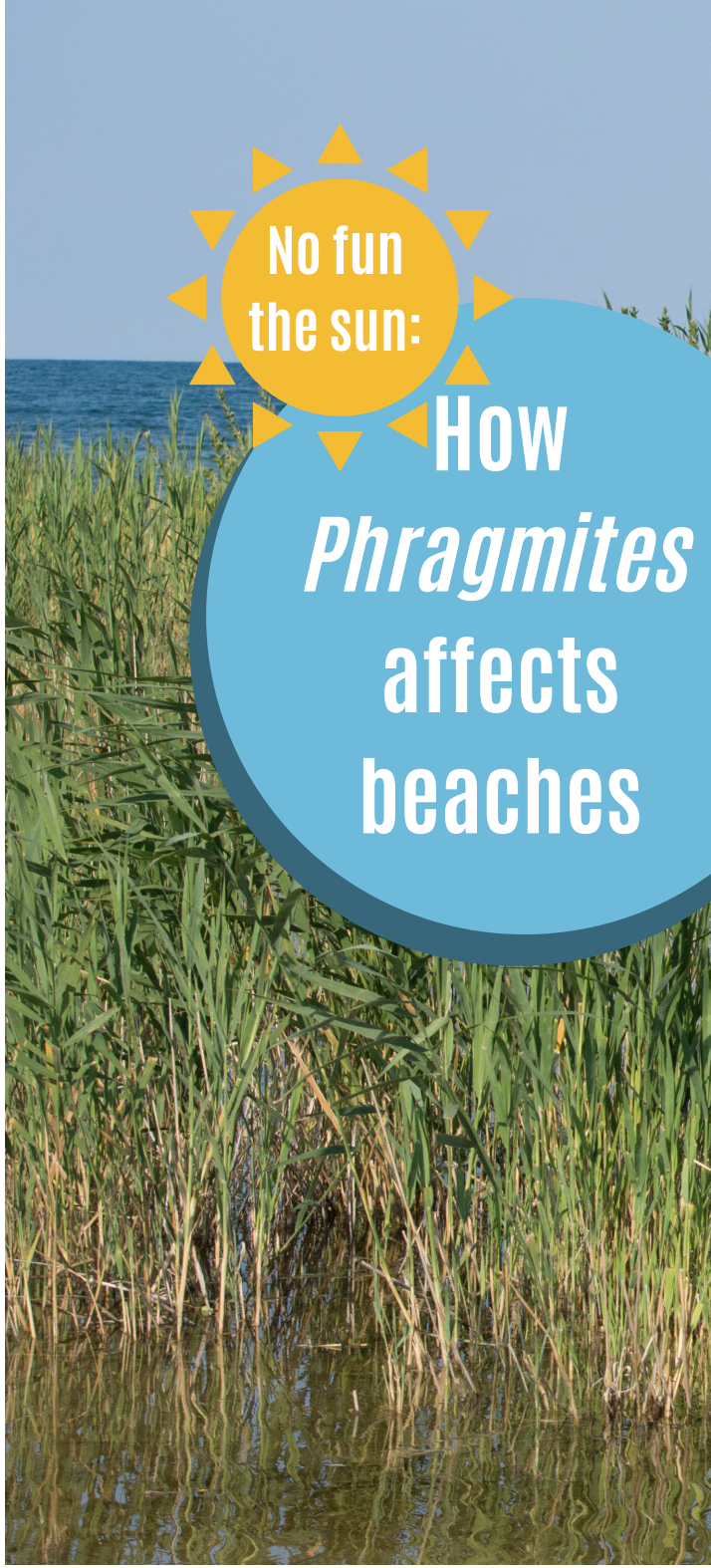
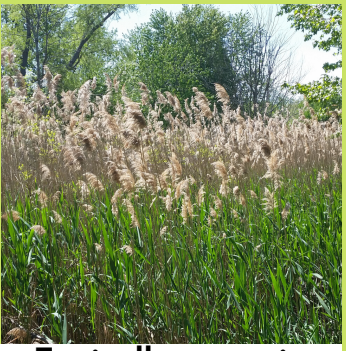


No fun in the sun: How *Phragmites* affects beaches

What does *Phragmites* look like?

Purplish seed head in summer

Fluffy tan seed head in fall



Typically grows in dense patches

Dull green stems

Photo courtesy of Janice Gilbert, Invasive Phragmites Control Centre

Can grow up to 20 feet tall each summer!

Great Lakes PHRAGMITES COLLABORATIVE

GREAT LAKES *PHRAGMITES* COLLABORATIVE

How does *Phragmites* affect beaches?

Phragmites threatens the recreational value enjoyed by thousands of beach-goers in the Great Lakes basin. For both beachfront property owners and visitors to beaches on the Great Lakes and inland lakes, *Phragmites* is cause for much concern.

Protect beaches from *Phragmites*:

DETECT invasive *Phragmites* growing along beaches or shorelines

NOTIFY your local homeowners organization or government

MANAGE *Phragmites* to remove it from the site - see our website for guidance.

PREVENT the establishment of *Phragmites* in new areas

This invasive Plant:

- Grows up to 20 feet high, blocking beach views
- Grows in dense stands along shorelines and blocks access to the water for swimming and boating
- Decreases the value of beachfront property
- Thrives in the difficult conditions of a sandy environment, outcompeting native plants
- Can retain water and create wet, boggy sand
- Can damage skin or clothing when walked through
- Eliminates nesting habitat for Piping Plover and other threatened wildlife
- Degrades habitat quality for wildlife including shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals

www.greatlakesphragmites.net