



CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR FOR HERBICIDE TREATMENT

Make sure the contractor has a valid [Michigan Pesticide Applicator Business License](#) (ask for a copy). Check that each employee doing the work is a certified Pesticide Applicator in the Core, ROW and Aquatics categories.

AFTER REQUESTING BIDS, REVIEW THE FOLLOWING:

TIMING: *Phragmites* treatment should take place between mid-August and mid-October.

HERBICIDE SELECTION: *Phragmites* is generally treated with glyphosate or imazapyr. Imazapyr remains in the soil longer and can impact trees—use caution. The herbicide and adjuvant should both be aquatic-safe.

APPLICATION METHOD: In most cases, herbicide will be sprayed on the leaves using a backpack sprayer or ATV/truck-mounted sprayer. This is called “foliar application” or “foliar spray.”

INSURANCE COVERAGE: Read all legal components of contracts and ensure coverage is adequate.

PERMITTING: Confirm that the contractor will hold the permit required for application of herbicides near water and determine who will cover those costs.

COST: Most contractors will have a minimum cost of \$125-150 and then charge per acre.

DECONTAMINATION: Ensure the contractor will clean all equipment between sites to prevent transporting invasive species into your area.

PHRAGMITES IDENTIFICATION

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), also referred to as common reed, is a highly invasive grass that thrives in our wetlands.

Phragmites is an aggressive invader in Southeast Michigan. A small patch quickly becomes difficult and expensive to control. *Phragmites* crowds out cattails and other native plants, harming the wildlife that depend on them. *Phragmites* can block shorelines and beach access and clog retention ponds and drainage ditches. *Phragmites* infestations reduce property values and are a fire hazard when dry.

MANAGING PHRAGMITES

Phragmites rhizomes extend deep into the soil, making physical removal nearly impossible.

Mowing will not kill the plant and may increase its spread. Small infestations not located in standing water can be treated by following the Oakland County CISMA brochure for homeowner treatment: <http://bit.ly/phragmites-brochure>

Phragmites growing in water that maintains a consistent water level can be cut below the water line using [raspberry cane cutters](#). Contractors can provide herbicide treatments or large-scale cutting.



FINDING A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR

Check with your [municipality](#). If they have a *Phragmites* treatment contract, you may be eligible for a free quote. Visit OaklandInvasiveSpecies.org/Resources for a list of contractors who provide aquatic invasive species chemical control.

For small projects, contact the Oakland County CISMA to see if there is an option to combine with other projects to reduce overall cost.

