



ONTARIO **PHRAGMITES** WORKING GROUP

WWW.OPWG.CA

The Ontario Phragmites Working Group (OPWG) is a team of dedicated people working together in an effort to facilitate effective, efficient and environmentally responsible management of invasive Phragmites in Ontario. The OPWG teamed up with the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) in 2013 to maximize these efforts.



WHAT IS INVASIVE PHRAGMITES?

Invasive Phragmites is an aggressively spreading grass that was recognized in 2005 as Canada's worst invasive plant. It has become established in many parts of southern Ontario and is one of the most significant threats to Great Lakes coastal habitats, where it has drastically reduced plant and animal diversity and threatens many Species at Risk (SAR).

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

- » Crowds out native vegetation, reducing biodiversity.
- » Reduces crop yields and impedes recreational activities.
- » Impedes motorist and pedestrian visibility, causing road safety hazards.
- » Pose significant fire hazards with the potential to impact infrastructure and residential areas.
- » Plugs drains along roadsides, causing flooding.

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

- » Perennial grass which can grow to heights of more than 6 meters.
- » Feathery appearance, with large clusters of flowers containing hundreds of florets and long, soft hairs.
- » Grows in dense monocultures, up to 100% invasive Phragmites.
- » Alternate, flat leaves, gradually tapering to a point and often held at a 45 degree angle from stem.
- » Leaf sheaths are difficult to remove (key I.D. feature).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Stop the spread by inspecting, cleaning and removing mud, seeds and plant parts from clothing, animals, vehicles (including bicycles) and equipment, such as mowers.
- » Never use invasive Phragmites in your garden or pick it for decorative purposes.
- » Try to avoid disturbing soil and never remove native plants from natural areas. This leaves the soil bare and vulnerable to invasive species.

REPORT IT ONLINE

Visit www.eddmaps.org/ontario or call the Invading Species Hotline (1-800-563-7711)

Interested in joining the OPWG or finding out more information on how to control this plant?
Visit www.opwg.ca

