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# Stop Invasive Phragmites

**Common Reed** (*Phragmites australis*) is an aggressive, non-native species of phragmites that is currently threatening the ecological health of the wetlands and coastal shorelines of the Great Lakes. Common Reed has been recorded in 56 Indiana counties but occurs most heavily in northwest Indiana, including Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties.

Invasive phragmites (*pronounced: frag-my-teez*) is responsible for reducing the biodiversity of habitats resulting in loss of food and shelter for numerous native species, including threatened ones. You can help combat the spread of phragmites by knowing how to identify and eradicate it.

Invasive phragmites species can overtake a landscape without providing any real benefits for birds, mammals, and other wildlife that rely on wetland and coastal habitats. This reed species rapidly colonizes an area by seed dispersal, and dense spreading roots called *rhizomes* that can shift the balance of native flora, alter soil hydrology, and accelerate the drying of marshlands.

Understanding the plant's life cycle is key to successful removal. Eliminate colonies by cutting the stalks back to the ground before the end of July. Improper timing can result in intensified plant growth. When using an herbicide, it should only take place after the tasseling stage when the plant is feeding the rhizomes. Find out more information on eradication and control of invasives at the Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG) at: [www.invasivespecies.IN.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.IN.gov)

Remember that you can also prevent the spread of non-native species like phragmites by telling your state and local elected officials to support policies and programs that control invasive species and help restore balance to habitats.



**IDENTIFY.**  
**TREAT.**  
**MONITOR.**



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