



Foliage

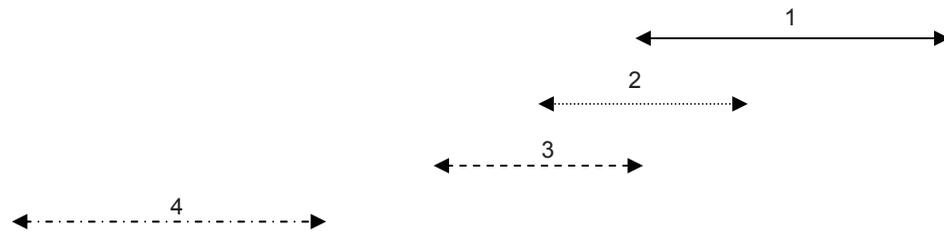


Seed Head



Roots

Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec



Management Techniques

- (Fall) Herbicides. Once the seed heads have fully emerged, spray the upper foliage with ONE of the recommended herbicides below. If native vegetation is present, a wick applicator should be used. Seed heads do not need to be removed because seeds rarely germinate. *Follow up with technique 4 and check for re-sprouting in the spring.*
 - 1% Imazapyr with a 0.25% non-ionic surfactant solution (selective for broadleaf and grass)
 - 1.5% Glyphosate solution (**Important Note: Glyphosate is non-selective, avoid contacting non-target plants)
- (August-September) Mow. This technique is only effective if you follow it up with technique 1. Mow the infested area in early August and follow technique 1 in September. Re-sprouts should be at least knee high before a foliar spray is applied. Check for re-sprouting in the spring.
- (July-August) Cut. Hand cut each stem near the ground, or tie all the stems together and cut the stems just above the string. Then drip ONE of the following herbicides onto the cut stems:
 - 1% Imazapyr with a 0.25% non-ionic surfactant solution (selective for broadleaf and grass)
 - 25% Glyphosate solution (**Important Note: Glyphosate is non-selective, avoid contacting non-target plants)
- (Spring) Prescribed burn. A prescribed fire may be used the spring following a fall herbicide application. This will help remove the dead vegetation so that re-sprouting can be seen and native vegetation can emerge.

****Make sure to only use herbicides that are labeled for use near water****

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.HawkeyeCWMA.org>

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABELS.

Proper training for prescribed fires is highly recommended.

Basic training can be found online at <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses/s130.html> and <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses/s190.html>

Related Websites:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/invasive.html>
<http://plants.usda.gov>
www.invasivespecies.gov
www.nps.gov/plants/alien

Credits:

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The Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Area (HCWMA) is a collective group of county, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and community associations who have come together to combat the invasive species problem in Eastern Iowa. The HCWMA serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Louisa Counties and is open to all interested parties. The Term CWMA, or Cooperative Weed Management Area, refers to a local organization that integrates invasive species management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire regions.

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All Hawkeye CWMA members (agencies, organizations, and individuals) are equal opportunity providers and employers.



Common Reed Grass

Phragmites australis



A SERIOUS THREAT
To
Iowa's Wetlands



What is Common Reed Grass?

- A tall, warm-season perennial grass.
- Mostly found in areas of standing water or moist soils.
- Has native and non-native strains.
- The non-native strain is aggressive and forms dense stands.
- The non-native strain was introduced in the late 1700's from Europe.



An infestation of Common Reed Grass

What is the threat to Iowa?

- Reproduces through rapidly spreading rhizomes.
- Quickly forms dense stands.
- Out competes beneficial native wetland vegetation.

What does Common Reed Grass Look Like?

Identifying traits: Cane-like stems grow in dense patches. Plants grow up to 10 feet tall. The reddish-purple seed head emerges in late July and turns to beige once fully mature.



Leaves:

Leaves are smooth, flat, long, narrow, and linear. They can be up to 2 feet long. The leaves stay on the plant through the winter.

Stems:

Stems are tan, hallow, rigid, and un-branched. They can grow up to 10 feet tall. Buds form on the rhizomes during the summer. In the following spring, the buds quickly grow into new stems.



Seed Heads:

Feather-like seed heads are large and dense. When they emerge in late July they are reddish-purple in color. When they mature in the fall they turn to beige in color. Seeds have a very low germination rate and most are considered infertile.



Roots:

Rhizomes can reach up to 6 feet deep. Roots emerge at the nodes of the rhizomes. Most root systems are very dense and wide-spread. These spreading rhizomes are the main means of reproduction for Common Reed Grass.



Native Alternatives:

Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)-

This native perennial grass grows up to 5 feet tall. It grows best in dry soils with full sun, but it can tolerate poor soils. It blooms in late summer with light brown stamens. The abundant seeds attract birds in the fall and winter. It's deep roots help prevent soil erosion.



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)-

This native prairie grass grows up to 4 feet tall. It blooms from August to February with purplish-bronze flowers. Seed heads are silver, fluffy, and persist through winter. In fall, the stems and foliage turn a bronze-orange color. Like most native prairie plants, it has deep roots which provide great erosion control. Grows best in full sun.



What is the Difference Between native and non-native Common Reed Grass?

Trait	Native Phragmites	Non-Native Phragmites
Leaf Sheaths	Fall off in winter or are easy to remove	Stay on in winter or are hard to remove
Stem Color (at base)	Red to chestnut in summer, light chestnut in winter	Tan in summer and winter
Stem Texture	Smooth and shiny	Rough and dull
Stem Flexibility	Very flexible	Very rigid
Density of Stands	Low density	High density
Time of Flowering	July to August	August to September
Leaf Color	Yellow-green	Dark green or gray
Rhizome Density	Low density	High density
Habitat	Must be in moist soil that is never inundated	Can grow in dry sites and be inundated