



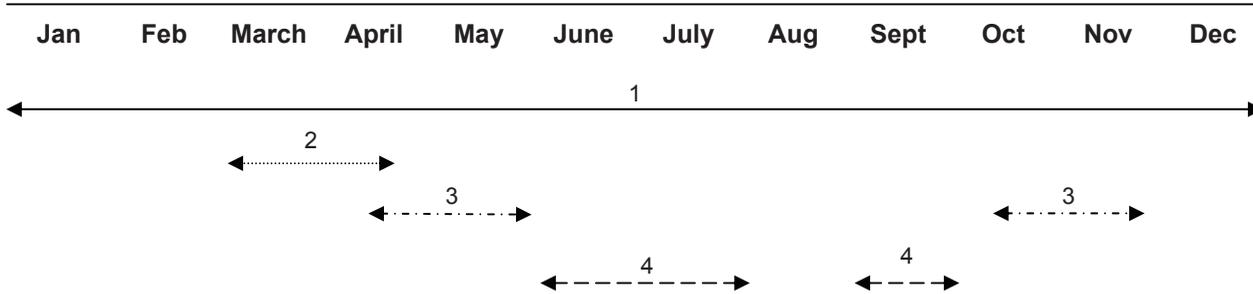
Seedling



Ligule



Seeds



Management Techniques

- (All year) Hand-pull plants before seeds are produced. Bag and remove all rhizomes and roots from the area.
- (Early Spring) Herbicides. Choose ONE of the following techniques:
 - Tie stems together before flowering, cut the stems and spray with a 33% glyphosate solution (if temp. is between 40°F and 80°F).
 - Remove all dead leaves. Apply a 5% glyphosate solution foliar spray to leaves using a sprayer before native vegetation begins to grow. At least 2 herbicide treatments will most likely be needed.
 - Wick application of a 33% glyphosate solution. Then, in late June to mid-July the area should be burned. This decreases grass cover, reduces seed bank, and stimulates native plant growth.
- (Late Spring or Late Fall) Burn the affected area 5 years in a row. It may help to spray a 1.5% glyphosate solution on the plant prior to burning, which will “brown up” the area and provide a top-kill. *Monitor for re-growth and follow with technique 1.*
- (June, July, and September) Cutting or mowing. Must be done at least 3 times per growing season. Works best if done once every season (spring, summer, and fall). *Follow with technique 1 after plants have grown to 6 inches.*

******Important Note: Glyphosate is Non-Selective, Avoid Contacting Non-Target Plants. 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:

Photographs: Esther McGinnis, UNM.edu; USDA.GOV; Jamie Nielsen, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Steve Hurst, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database; John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy; Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, Ohio State University; Mark Frey, The Presidio Trust; www.bugwood.org

Brochure Created By: Sarah Chmielewski, Karen Clauson

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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.

Reed Canary Grass

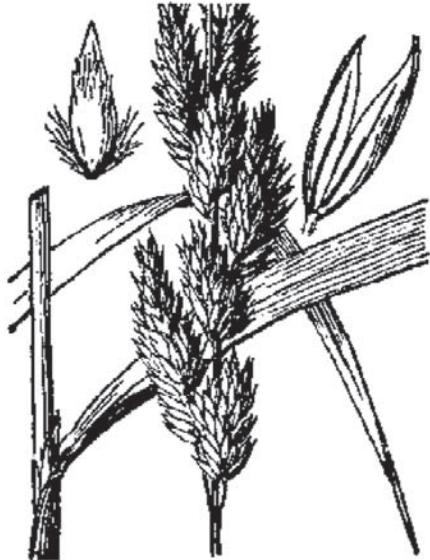
Phalaris arundinacea



A SERIOUS THREAT
 To
 Iowa's Wetlands

What is Reed Canary Grass?

- A perennial grass native to North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- European cultivars introduced for hay, forage, and erosion control in the early 1800's.
- Is a popular plant for pollution control of waste water.
- Can reproduce by seeds or rhizomes.



Line Drawing of Reed Canary Grass

What is the threat to Iowa?

- Is very productive on moist soils and will hoard nutrients.
- A limited number of herbicides are labeled for use where reed canary grass typically grows (in wet soils and near water bodies).
- When the plant dies in the mid to late summer, the dead plant material completely shades out the area.
- It can tolerate heat, drought, flood, and winter.

What does Reed Canary Grass Look Like?

Identifying traits: Grows between 2 to 6 feet tall, and occasionally reaches heights of 9 feet. Produces green to purple flowers. Leaves are long and narrow, and rough on both sides.

Flowers:

The flowers are found in dense terminal clusters. Over the course of the summer, the branches of the flower heads open up. As the plant goes to seed, the branches fold up again. Flower color ranges from green to purple, turning beige in the late summer and fall.



Leaves:



The alternately growing leaves are wide, have a flat blade (held erect through the majority of the plant's life), are gradually tapered, and have a rough texture on both the top and the bottom. The leaves measure 3-1/2 to 10 inches long and 1/4 to 3/4 inches wide.

Stem:

The stems of Reed Canary Grass are bluish green, round, hairless, and stand erect. A unique characteristic of Reed Canary Grass is a stiff 1/2 inch ligule (pictured on the management techniques page) at the base of the leaves.



Native Alternatives:

Canada Bluejoint (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*)-

This cool season perennial grass grows from 3 to 5 feet tall. It produces purple flowers in the summer that become tan later in the season. Creeping underground rhizomes help stabilize the soil, making this grass highly useful in the restoration of wetlands and steep banks. This grass provides valuable habitat and food source throughout the year for many small mammals and birds.



Dropping Sedge (*Carex crinita*)-

This sedge likes to grow in wet soils, making it a well suited candidate to replace Reed Canary Grass since they share similar habitats. It stands 3 to 4 feet tall and grows in dense clusters, which provides great habitat for wildlife. The seeds are a highly nutritious food for waterfowl. This plant can succeed in full shade and requires little to no maintenance.



I am a Rancher or Farmer...

Why Should I Care About Invasive Species:

- Invasive weeds can reduce crop yields by taking up nutrients and water faster than desired plants.
- Many of them are unpalatable or toxic to livestock
- They can limit the variety of plants available for livestock.
- Some plants release chemicals that inhibit crops from growing

What can I do to help prevent the spread of invasive species?

- Learn to identify the invasive species in your area. The sooner invasive species are detected, the easier and cheaper it is to control them.
- Clean your boots, gear, truck bed, tires and harvesting equipment after working a site to make sure you are not spreading invasive seeds, insects or spores to a new location.
- Be sure to control invasive plants along fencerows, ditches and other areas adjacent to fields.
- Always use weed-free hay and feed for your animals.



Sustainable Farming Practices Are A Great Way to Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species