

## Eradication of Common Reed or Phragmites

Before beginning any treatment it is important to :

Contact the municipality to validate the identification and the status of the species

Locate the colonies (seedlings, immature plants and mature plants)

*It should be noted that the common reed is not harmful to human health on contact . However, it s presence is very harmful to the environment!*



### Manuel uprooting

- ✓Tear, cut, and mow shoots. Using a shovel remove as much of the roots as possible.
- ✓It is important to remove all of the plant (stems, inflorescences and rhizomes).
- ✓Make repeated cuts, close to the ground which limits plant regrowth.
- ✓For a small colony, you may set up a geotextile on the cut roots in order to prevent regrowth.
- ✓For a larger colony it is recommended to dispose mechanically.

Comment l'enlever ?

These steps need to be repeated year after year until the total disappearance of the plant

### How to prevent the reappearance of the plant?

Herbaceous sowing is the best way to protect the land from Phragmites. Non-invasive alternative species exists to create ecological enhancement such as *Typha latifolia* or the *Juncus effusus*.

### How to dispose of it ?

The stem and root that you cut must be managed properly. Do not compost the plant in whole or in part. You must dry the plant. Avoid dispersal of the seeds by placing them in an airtight bag, exposed to the sun for a minimum of one week. Throw the bag in the garbage or bring larger quantities to the local landfill.



### For further information...

Consult the MDDELCC website (ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux Changements Climatiques):

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca>

Along with informative videos concerning the prevention and control of the IES:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RC4qI-KF6ofg>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvr7o\\_kNk-D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvr7o_kNk-D)

Anyone who has observed the presence of IES in the territory of the Municipality is asked to report the presence to the Municipality and the Sentinelle tool at the adress below:

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/especes-exotiques-envahissantes/sentinelle.htm>

Informative pamphlet realised by the students of Masters in Environment of the University of Sherbrooke for the Municipality of Bolton-Est

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## INVASIVE EXOTIC SPECIES

### Common reed or phragmite



Often perceived as weeds by amateur gardeners , **the common reed or phragmite** is not a plant like the others. It is an invasive exotic species (IES) vivacious and tenacious!

## Identify intruders



## Invasive exotic species

An invasive exotic plant is a species introduced outside of their natural range whose spread or establishment represents a threat to the environment, human health and the economy

## The common reed or phragmite

*Phragmites australis*

This plant is a result of a European genotype introduced more than 3000 years ago. It has been present in North America since then but remained sparse until 1950. Common reeds have expanded considerably in the last 30 years.

Today the plant is present throughout the province. We have observed less expansion in wetlands, however, when it flourishes, it greatly dominates space.

Common reeds are found at the edge of ditches, roads fields, disturbed soil, in environments disturbed by human activity (backfilling, digging, etc.) and in some cases, wetlands.

## IES adverse affects on the environment

- ✓ Decreases the diversity of vegetation
- ✓ Causes displacement and extinction of native plants
- ✓ Degrades and erodes soil

## The common reed or phragmite

How to spot them?

At the provincial level, the situation is out of control, but at the local level you can help prevent its arrival or control its distribution. To do so we must first learn to recognize it.

### Plant Characteristics.

<b>Height</b>	150 to 250 cm
<b>Stem</b>	Erect, very strong, unbranched, and sometimes with a purple tint approximately 1 cm in diameter
<b>Roots</b>	Up to 200cm deep
<b>Flowers</b>	Inflorescences in form of a flag or feather and changes from colour purple to dark brown (mature) flowering in August to September
<b>Leaves</b>	Long and flat



Stems, leaves, and inflorescences



Rhizomes

**Important!** This plant adapts very well to periods of flooding and droughts and can withstand large temperature differences which makes it a formidable IES very hard to control!

## Direct impact of the phragmite on the environment

- ✓ The species dispersion because of the disruption of natural habitats, climate change and variations in water level
- ✓ Disrupts human activity by reducing access to waterways
- ✓ Decreases economic value of the land it invades
- ✓ The invaded areas are dense and offer little value for wildlife, reducing biodiversity



Phragmites colony bordering the river

## Additional precautions

Check and clean machinery regularly (mower, farm machines, excavator) following an intervention in infested areas. Also, clean canoes, boats, motors and ATV's after use when in contact with IES.