

Control Options

Phragmites growing in a dry site may be controlled with the aid of herbicides. If *phragmites* is in or near water, contact your local weed board to discuss site specific options.

There may be project funding in your area to control *phragmites* in your waterway.

For Grays Harbor residents, contact the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board for information.

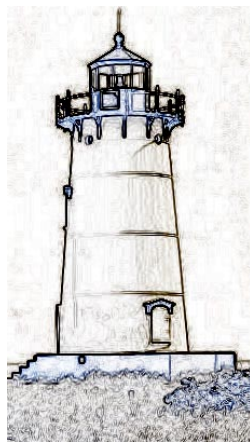


Phragmites Australis

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Offices are located at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia at 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington, 98504.

The mailing address is: P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. The phone number is (360) 902-1901.

Their website: www.nwcb.wa.gov is chock-full of weed information and links.



Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Board

P.O. Box R
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Protecting
Grays Harbor's
Natural Resources

Common Reed *Phragmites australis*



VASS. PHRAGMITES VULGARIS (LAM) DRUCE

Grays Harbor County
Noxious Weed Board

Tel. 360.482.2265

Big Grass, Big Problem

Common reed is a very tall grass that can reach 16 feet or more. It grows on every continent except Antarctica.



Phragmites forms thick stands that choke out other native plants and wildlife

It closely resembles pampas grass, but is less showy and much taller.

There are native and non-native genotypes of common reed in Washington State. Samples were collected in Grays Harbor in 2003 and all were found to be the non-native, invasive type.

Common reed aggressively invades wetlands and tidal marshes. Over time, the plant becomes a mono-culture, at the expense of the native plants and animals that live there.

The Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, located in the northeast corner of Grays Harbor estuary, has been invaded by phragmites. The refuge encompasses approximately 1500 acres of saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, and uplands.

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop by the Refuge on their migratory routes to feed and rest, in addition to the birds that reside there year-round. During migration, the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest concentrations of shorebirds in North America.



Protecting the Harbor from phragmites invasion is crucial to the shorebird's habitat.

Phragmites can also ruin the aesthetic beauty of waterfront property by excluding view.

Dense infestations present a fire hazard.

Once it has become established it can be very difficult to control. Small infestations should be controlled as soon as is feasible : hand pulling or repeated cutting may work for very early invasions.

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