



Huron Pines

Invasive Species Fact Sheet

Identification:

Appearance: Perennial wetland grass that creates a tall dense monoculture. Plants can exceed 15 ft. in height, but 80% of its mass is underground.

Stem, Leaf Sheath: Stems are a dull tan color and have tiny raised ridges running vertically. The leaf sheaths cling tightly to the stem and are difficult to remove.

Seed Head: A distinctive purple brown plume forms by late July producing 2000 seeds annually.

Distribution: Found in coastal/wetland areas. Also thrives in highly disturbed areas. Stolons (horizontal spreading stems; seen in the picture below) can grow up to 60 ft. in a season, with new plants popping up from them. Seed also contributes to distribution and expansion.



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Phragmites

Phragmites australis



Ecological Effects:

- Thrives in multiple coastal and inland environments
- Tall, dense stands make it very difficult for humans and wildlife to access the water bodies it surrounds
- Decline in native species and habitat result in a loss of bird and mammal populations. A chemical released through the root system called saponin can kill fish.

Control Methods:

Herbicide application is the recommended first step to control phragmites. Small stands can be treated by injecting stems, hand swiping, or selectively spraying with backpack sprayers. Large stands require more substantial equipment and can include a helicopter. **Mechanical removal** of dead plant material can be beneficial in larger stands for better growing conditions for native plants. Caution: this can also promote the growth of phragmites plants not affected by herbicide treatment. **Note:** the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may require permit(s) for removal of invasive species depending on the location. Check for permit requirements with the DEQ or contact Huron Pines for more information. **To apply industrial pesticides you must be certified. Do not attempt to apply pesticides without a permit.** Contact Huron Pines or the DEQ for more information.