

# STOP THE SPREAD



**Phragmites outcompetes other wetland plants that are important food sources for waterfowl**

## UNWANTED PLANTS

### Origin

There are 2 types of Phragmites in North America - one is native and the other was accidentally introduced from Europe in the 1700's. Establishing itself on the Atlantic coast it has since spread across North America.

### Status

Phragmites is found throughout Canada and the United States and recently a number of stands were found in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.

### Impacts

Phragmites out competes the native plants by forming thick stands, causing a change in the nutrient and hydrological cycle, which in turn alters the habitat for wildlife.

### Where to Look

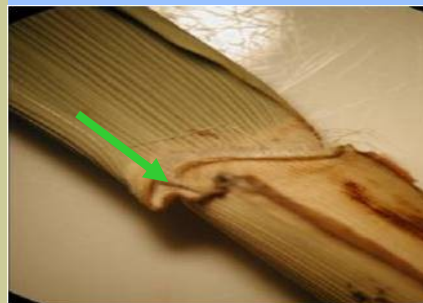
Semi-aquatic, the invasive giant reed can be found in disturbed wetlands at higher elevations but can also be found along roads and within ditches.

### LOOK FOR:

- ◇ Large perennial grass that grows up to 4.5 m tall or more in dense patches along waterways.
- ◇ Stem: Native stem are red to purple in the fall, invasive is pale yellow to green.
- ◇ Flowers: Flowers in Mid-September to early October when native plants have already died back.



Native Phragmites ligule



Invasive Phragmites ligule

Native Phragmites seed head on left, Invasive Phragmites flower head on right; both taken at same time of year.



**Report a Sighting:**



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**Canada**

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**EDDMapS** Prairie Region  
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

<http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

Photo Credits: Invasive Phragmites on rte. 90 @ lindenwoods Dr. and close up of Phragmites stand: C. Parks; Seed head: C. parks; Native and Invasive Phragmites ligule: Dr. J. Gilbert