

Invasive phragmites reeds are not native to this area. These wetland plants shade out native species, deny fish and wildlife nutrients and space, and pose a fire hazard.

Invasives are very hard to get rid of but can be contained. Please help manage them in Halifax!

All the reeds you see in Halifax and most of Vermont are invasive phragmites. There is a very rare, native reed (*Phragmites americanus*) up in Addison county; native reeds have reddish-brown stems that are smooth and shiny and grow interspersed with other wetland plants.

- Invader: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).
- Type: perennial.
- Height: 6 to 15 feet tall.
- Stems: stiff, green to tan in color, dull, and hollow.
- Leaves: sheath-like leaves grow 2 feet long, are about 1 inch wide, and taper to a point.
- Flowers: purplish turning to tan/whitish, feather-like plumes, 1-2 feet long.
- Roots: knobby rhizomes and runners spread the reeds underground.



Phragmites australis plume – photo credit Vijai Pandian & Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.



New shoots form at each node along *Phragmites* rhizomes. Photo courtesy of Roger Wolfe.

Phragmites australis rhizome – Wetland Restoration/Mosquito Management, CT Wildlife Div.

What to Do:

- Cut plants at 45-degree angle with a spade (4-6” below surface) or pull out by hand; late July-August is best.
- Bag seed heads and roots in black trash bags and leave in the sun to rot for 3-4 weeks.
- Let stems dry before composting or burning.
- Revisit all sites annually.

More information:

https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/fact-sheets/PhragmitesFactSheet_2019.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/PhragControlpdf.pdf

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