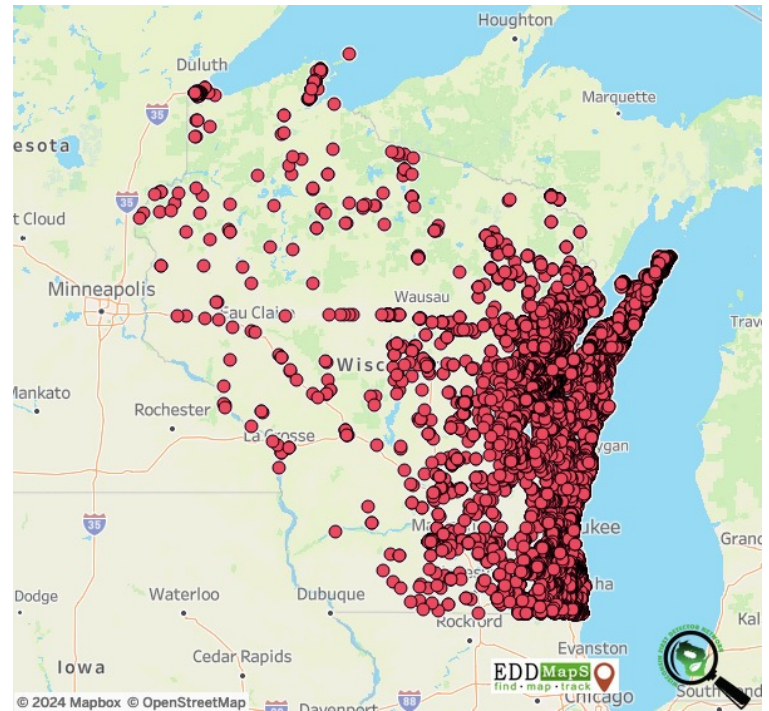


# Common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*)



- Robust, clonal grass with fluffy inflorescences
- Habitats it invades:
  - Wetlands
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Prohibited/Restricted
  - Regulated in: MI, MN, OH





# Common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*)

## *Leaves alternate*

- Plants 6-15' tall; leaves 8-24" long
- Leaves with long, tapered tips
- Leaves bluish green
- Plants clonal, spreading underground





# Common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*)

## Spikelets

- Panicles densely branched, fluffy
- Spikelets 12-15 mm long with 2-8 florets; flowering late summer-fall
- Spikelets with long hairs between the florets



# Common reed native vs. invasive



Two subspecies of common reed grow in Wisconsin: the **native** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*) and the **invasive** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*). They differ in numerous subtle characters as well as a few quantitative ones. Most notably, the **invasive** subspecies grows in degraded wetlands and along roads and highways. The **native** subspecies grows in swamps and higher quality wetlands dominated by native vegetation.



**Native** subsp. *americanus* is generally less robust and has lower stems reddish in color with loose leaf sheaths.

**Invasive** subsp. *australis* is very tall and forms dense stands; its leaf sheaths are tight, and the lower stems are dull green to tan.



# Common reed native vs. invasive



Two subspecies of common reed grow in Wisconsin: the **native** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*) and the **invasive** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*). They differ in numerous subtle characters as well as a few quantitative ones. Most notably, the **invasive** subspecies grows in degraded wetlands and along roads and highways. The **native** subspecies grows in swamps and higher quality wetlands dominated by native vegetation.



**Native** subsp. *americanus* has ligules that are longer than 0.4 mm and leaves that are yellow-green.

**Invasive** subsp. *australis* has ligules that are shorter than 0.4 mm and leaves that are blue-green.

# Common reed native vs. invasive



Renz Weed Science  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Two subspecies of common reed grow in Wisconsin: the **native** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*) and the **invasive** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*). They differ in numerous subtle characters as well as a few quantitative ones. Most notably, the **invasive** subspecies grows in degraded wetlands and along roads and highways. The **native** subspecies grows in swamps and higher quality wetlands dominated by native vegetation.

*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*

*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*

**Invasive** subsp. *australis* has lower glumes that are 2.6-4.2 mm long.

**Native** subsp. *americanus* has lower glumes that are 4-7 mm long.

