

Phragmites:

Distinguishing the native from the non-native form



Michigan
Natural
Features
Inventory

Characteristics

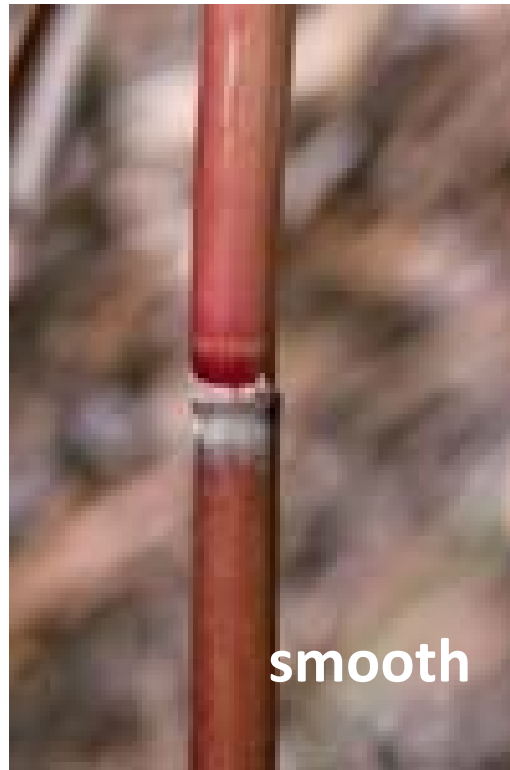
	Native	Non-native
Stem color	shiny reddish	dull tan
Leaf persistence	fall off easily	persists
Ligule length	0.4-1.0 mm	0.1-0.4 mm
Lower glume length	4-7 mm	2.6-4.2 mm
Habit	scattered stems	dense stands
Habitats	fens, sedge meadows shorelines	ditches, disturbed sites, saline habitats, Great Lakes shores

Characteristics

Native

Stem color

shiny reddish



Non-native

dull tan



Characteristics

Native

Winter Stem color shiny tan



Non-native

dull tan



Characteristics

Native

Leaf persistence

falls off easily



Non-native

persists





Native phragmites
(mature plants)

Non-native phragmites
(new infestation)

Characteristics

Native

Non-native

Leaf color

yellowish green

bluish-gray green



Characteristics

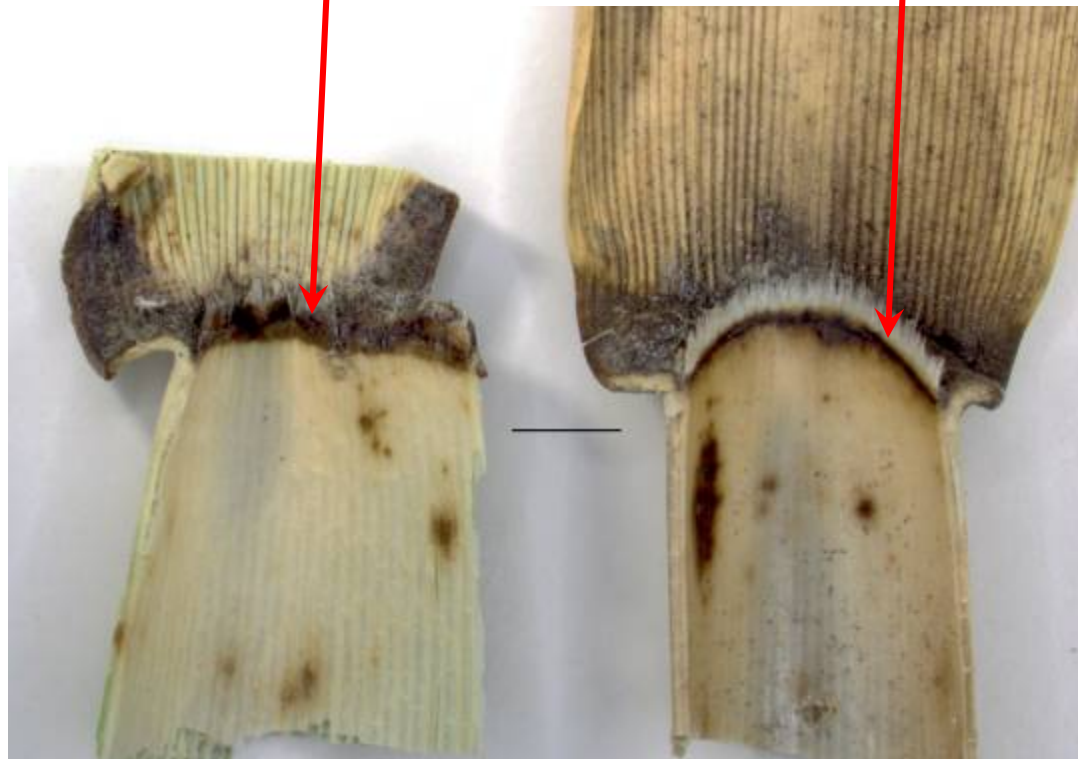
Ligule length
(excluding fringe)

Native

0.4-1.0 mm

Non-native

0.1-0.4 mm



* May deteriorate
later in season

Characteristics

Native

Non-native

Lower glume length 4-7 mm

2.6-4.2 mm



Characteristics

Native

Habit

(Mature populations)

scattered stems



Non-native

dense stands





Other plants grow below the native (old stems break down)



Too dense for other plants below (old stems persist)

Characteristics

Native

Non-native

Habit

scattered stems

scattered stems?

Compare:

mature

new infestation



seedheads



red stems →

**NO
seedheads**



Seedhead

Native

Non-native

Ripens

earlier

later



Seedhead

Native

Non-native

Size

delicate, open

heavier, full



Runners (mostly non-native)



