

What should you know about phragmites



Phragmites is an invasive species of perennial reed grass native to Eurasia that is thought to have established itself in Canada in the early 1900s. Phragmites is now established throughout Canada and is considered Canada's "worst invasive species".

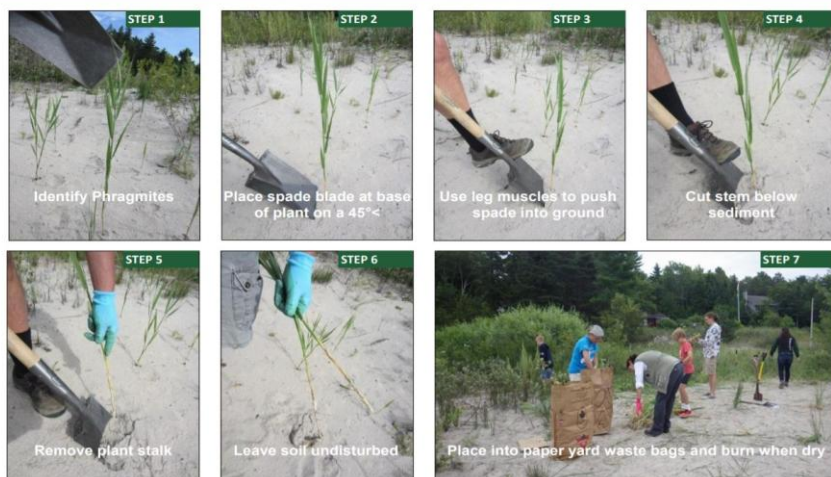
Phragmites has become an increasing problem in the Almaguin area since its introduction in the area in the 1980's.

Phragmites typically grow along shorelines and in wetland areas inland. It is an aggressive plant that grows and spreads quickly and outcompetes native plants for water and nutrients. Phragmites can grow up to 15 ft and have root mats that can spread up to 10 feet in a season and can be up to four feet thick, sending rhizomes (runners) up to 60 feet long.

Phragmites has many impacts on our environment. Phragmites will grow in dense stands that destroy habitat for our turtles, birds, fish, crayfish, and more. Phragmites also release chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of any plants nearby which can further impact biodiversity and habitat quality.

As well as the impact on the environment Phragmites also has major impacts on our economy and social wellbeing. Phragmites has been shown to affect agriculture which can lead to crop losses and other damage. It has also shown major impacts on roadways due to overcrowding causing line of sight issues and flooding due to changes in natural water flow.

Spading Method to Remove Invasive Phragmites



Cutting To Drown Invasive Phragmites



Special thanks to Greg Lisson and Leslie Wood (Oliphant Fishing Islands Phragmites Community Group) and Donna Stewart (South Bruce Peninsula Phragmites Group) for demonstrating the raspberry cane cutting method.

What can you do?

- Clean camping, hiking, fishing, and any other gear used outdoors after every use
- Practice [clean drain dry](#) methods when in and around the water to prevent spread
- Inform yourself and others on phragmites
- Learn to identify the invasive and native species of phragmites
- Learn the [best management practices](#) for removal and management of phragmites
- Use [EDDmapS](#) or [iNaturalist](#) to photograph and report sightings

Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard has been managing phragmites in the Almaguin area since 2018 and manages 61 sites annually. Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard relies heavily on volunteer work. If interested in joining the fight against invasive phragmites, to report phragmites on your property, or with any other questions regarding phragmites contact us with our contact below.

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For more information visit the following sites:

[Spading Method to Remove Invasive Phragmites](#)

[PHRAGMITES WORKING GROUP - LAKE BERNARD | NNEEC](#)

[Invasive Phragmites Control Centre](#)

[Phragmites - Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#)

[Invasive Phragmites | Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#)

[Phragmites fact sheet | ontario.ca](#)

[NCC: Where We Work - Ontario - Fighting phragmites — Ontario's worst invasive species](#)

[Raspberry Cane Cutter - Lee Valley Tools](#)