

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

EUROPEAN COMMON REED

(Phragmites australis ssp. australis)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Europe.
- Erect perennial grass standing 2-5 m tall.
- White plume-like inflorescence.
- Thick, hollow culm 5-15 mm in diameter, surrounded by flat, stiff leaves.
- Deep, dense rhizomatous mats and far-reaching stolons
- Forms dense, impenetrable monocultures that displace beneficial vegetation.
- Alters irrigation and wetland hydrology and flood retention capacity.
- Impedes roadside visibility and increased fire potential.
- May reduce and degrade wetland wildlife habitat.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREAT: Tall, dense, impenetrable stands that alter hydrologic cycles.



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Germination and new growth in the spring and fall with approx. 200 stems/m².
- Rhizomes grow 0.5-4 m/year, extending up to 18 m long.
- Inflorescences develop in late summer and a single inflorescence produces 100s to 1,000s of seeds annually. Seed viability is typically low.
- New introductions occur mainly by seed and established sites spread rapidly by root fragments.
- Dispersal mainly by water currents, heavy machinery, and contaminated soil.

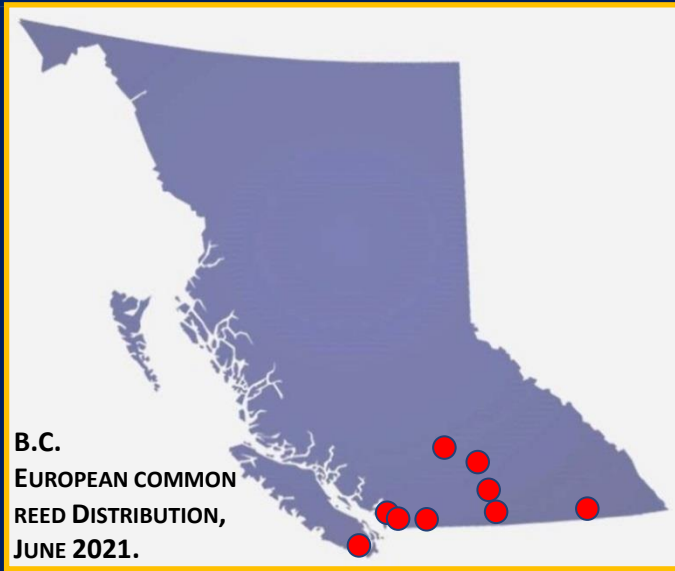


For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



EUROPEAN COMMON REED

(*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*)



STATUS & DISTRIBUTION

- Regulated Provincial Noxious Weed. Management goal provincial eradication.

Region	Status
Greater Victoria	Containment & control in progress.
Metro Vancouver	Containment & control in progress.
South Okanagan	Containment & control in progress.
North Okanagan	Contained; control in progress - populations in decline.
Thompson-Nicola	Eradicated, monitoring in progress.
Central Kootenay	Containment & control in progress.

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Mature Phragmites



Province of BC

HABITAT:

- Thrives in disturbed and pristine habitats including tidal and freshwater wetlands, river and lake edges, seasonally flooded areas, ditches, and rail lines.
- Prefers exposed soil with high nutrient levels.
- Can survive annual minimum temperatures as low as -39°C.
- Growth and reproduction are limited by shade, prolonged flooding and less than 110 frost free days per year.

LOOK-ALIKES*:

- Native common reed (*Phragmites australis*)
- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp)
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) immature culms only

* Unlike the native, invasive *Phragmites* may be recognized year-round by dense clusters of standing dead stems persisting from the previous year's growth. Note: Appearance and growth habits are highly variable, DNA analysis is the most accurate method of differentiating between the invasive and native *Phragmites*.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

- **REPORT** new infestations.
- This plant is easily confused with the native variety and should not be removed unless confirmed by the provincial EDRR Program.

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