

Invasive Species Factsheet-Common Reed

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Species Common Name: Common Reed, Phragmites

Species Scientific Name: *Phragmites australis ssp. australis*

Native Range and Introduction: This species is native to the United States, but the invasive subspecies is native to Europe and Asia. It was first introduced into the United States in the 1800's probably from ship ballast water. This species can be spread easily by wind and water, but human pathways are also important means of dispersal as outdoors move seed intentionally and unintentionally.

Description: Tall perennial reed species with plants reaching 15 feet. The plant is a reed so the stem will be hollow. It has long, pointed, alternate leaves with a hairy ligule. The inflorescence is a drooping panicles at maturity has many fluffy feathery seeds that can easily be carried by wind or water. The plant turns brown in the fall as it goes into winter dormancy.

Ecological and Economic Impacts: Ecologically this species forms larger, dense colonies that are complete monocultures. This has a large impact on the area as these places are usually wetlands areas used by mammals, birds, fish, and other aquatic species. This plant can cause a large drop in species richness and biodiversity in a wetland ecosystem. Economically, loss of recreational value of the infested area by loss of fishing, hunting, and birdwatching can be expected. Also, the species can be very costly to treat because of the habitat it grows in and its large growth.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Common Reed is on Sweetwater County Declared Noxious Species List.

Distribution in Wyoming: Common Reed is found in 15 of the 23 counties in Wyoming.

Control Options:

Mechanical: Mowing or weed eating can help prevent seed production, but isn't effective as long term control.

Chemical: In the wetland habitat, you have two options, RoundUp (with an aquatic label) or Habitat (Imazapyr), spring or fall applications of Habitat seem to be the preferred option.

Cultural: Fire in the fall can be used as part of an integrated plan, but isn't effective by itself.

Biological: Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) will eat submerged young plants.

Integrated Weed Management: This would likely include a fall burn of the infestation and coming back with a broadcast application on Habitat in the spring with a fall herbicide spot treatment option.

Online Resources:

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=59038>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/40514/aqb>

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/commonreed.shtml>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5510407>

Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5510405>



Image 1-Mature Seedhead



Image 2-Mature Plants

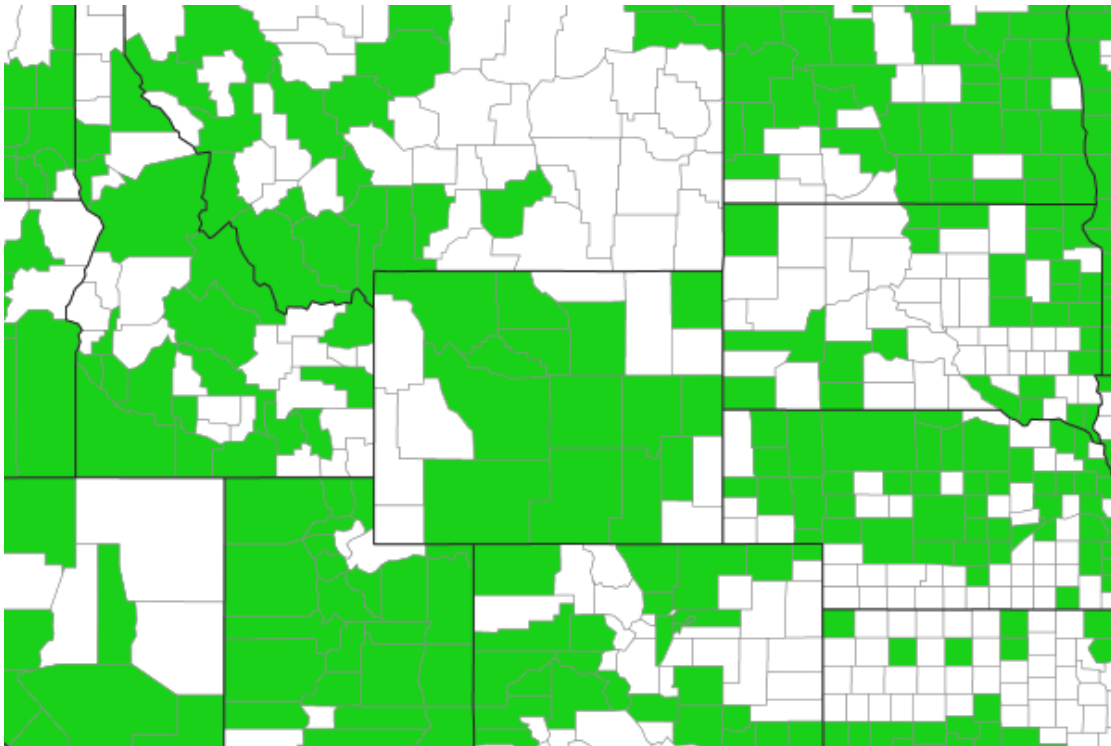


Figure 1-Common Reed distribution in the Wyoming and surrounding states
URL: <https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/uscounty.cfm?sub=59038>