

## Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*

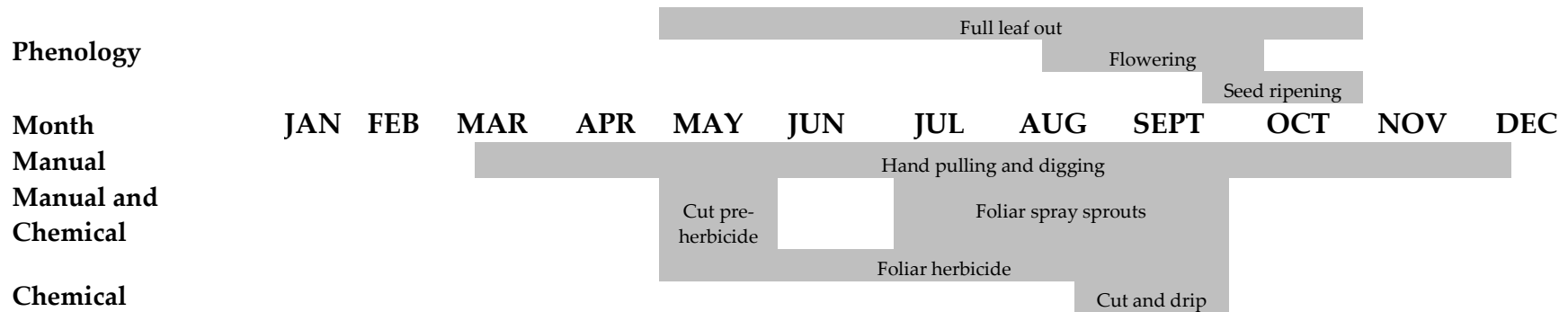
### Species Biology and Phenology:

**Habitat:** Common reed is found in temperate regions of North America, mainly in riparian areas, brackish and freshwater marsh, riverbanks, and lakeshores. It often occurs at the interface between wetlands and uplands, particularly where there has been a disturbance. It cannot tolerate rapidly moving water. It has a salinity tolerance of 0 to 18ppt, and can survive in poorly aerated sediments.

**Reproductive Strategy:** Reproduction is thought to take place mainly through vegetative means via rhizome and stolon fragments. Rhizomes spread horizontally during the growing season. New stalks shoot in spring, and flowers appear in late June with bushy panicles. Seeds form by August to early fall and are dispersed between November and January. Following seed set, nutrients are translocated down into the rhizomes and the above-ground portions of the plants die back for the season. Water depths of more than 5cm and salinities above 20ppt (2%) prevent germination. Percentage of germination increases with increasing temperature from 16 to 25°C while the time required to germinate decreases from 25 to 10 days over the same temperature range.

**Dispersal:** Seeds are normally dispersed by wind, but may also be transported by birds that nest among the reeds.

### Species Phenology and Treatment Options:



## Treatment Methods:

Category	Method	Method Description	Considerations
MANUAL	Manual treatment can be moderately successful for this plant.		
	Cutting/ Mowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut at least 1 times during growing season (mid May-mid October)</li> <li>• Repeat for 3-5 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be effective for small infestations. Re-sprouting will likely occur</li> <li>• Mowing/cutting can help reduce the population of phragmites if repeated for several years</li> </ul>
CHEMICAL	Active ingredients commonly used in herbicides: glyphosate and/or imazapyr		
	Foliar Application	<p><i>If foliar spraying only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foliar spray when plant is fully leafed out (May-October)</li> <li>• Spray leaf surfaces with low volume backpack sprayer, or high volume mist blower</li> </ul> <p><i>If cutting and foliar spraying:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use machete, lopper, pruning shears, mower, weed whacker/brush saw</li> <li>• Cut in early growing season</li> <li>• Spray sprouts later in growing seasons with hand held sprayers, low volume backpack sprayer, or high volume mist blower</li> </ul> <p><i>Foliar Wipe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a chemical resistant glove underneath an absorbent cotton glove</li> <li>• Moistens the glove and wipe each stem and leaf of the individual phragmites plant</li> </ul>	<p><i>Low Volume Backpack Sprayer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate and/or imazapyr with surfactant</li> <li>• Used to target plants and minimize drift to desirable species</li> </ul> <p><i>High Volume Mist Blower</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate and/or imazapyr with surfactant</li> <li>• Used for very larger and dense infestations that have little desirable, native vegetation that will be damaged by drift</li> </ul> <p><i>Foliar Wipe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate</li> <li>• Used for edges of infestation or in/around sensitive locations</li> </ul>
	Cut and drip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut the stem below a node on the stem</li> <li>• Drip one drop of herbicide mixed with water on each stem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate</li> <li>• Used to target plants and minimize drift to desirable species</li> <li>• Very labor intensive for large patches</li> </ul>