



Phragmites australis ssp. *australis* (Common Reed)

See Common Reed

- In wetlands:
 - above Charles Brown Brook dam
 - corner of Beaver Meadow & Stagecoach Roads
- Damp roadsides:
 - Goodrich Four Corners Road
 - River Road
 - Beaver Meadow
- Connecticut River Shorelines by the:
 - Ompompanoosuc River.
 - Inlet south of Patchen's Point parking.

Phragmites australis ssp. *americanus* is a different subspecies that is native to North American salt marshes.

It has been collected in Addison County, but doesn't occur in Norwich.



Natural History:

- Introduced in the early 1800s from European ballast.
- Spread in the 20th century due to disturbance, shoreline development, construction equipment, & eutrophication.

Ecological Impact:

- A class B noxious weed in VT.
- Poor food source for native fauna.
- Invades moist to wet disturbed areas.
- Forms dense stands, crowds out native plants.
- Dense rhizomes and litter accumulations alter hydrology in streams and wetlands.

Reproduction & Spread:

- New plants sprout from:
 - ❖ Above-ground horizontal stems (stolons).
 - ❖ Below-ground horizontal stems (rhizomes).
 - ❖ Small fragments of stolons or rhizomes.
 - ❖ Fluffy seeds dispersed by wind and water.

Identification:

- Giant grass 6-18 feet tall.
- Leaves up to 2" wide x 24" long.
- Fluffy blooms up to 1 foot long.

Control Methods:

- Don't pull; it creates fragments.
- Mow/cut repeatedly, then flood.
- Burn dry rhizomes; then flood.
- Cut in late July; herbicide in Fall.
- Repeat treatment for ≥ 2 years.

