

# A Friendly Notice about Invasive Plants

It appears your property may contain  
**Common Reed**



**Invasive plants** are aggressive non-native species that reproduce rapidly, outcompete native species, and can negatively impact agriculture, industry, recreation, forestry, human health, and the environment. Invasive plants may be introduced unintentionally, as hitchhikers on clothing, gear, or equipment, or unknowingly, often for ornamental purposes.

This notice is part of the early detection, response, and monitoring plan for the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program** whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species.

For more information contact the  
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program  
518-576-2082, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943  
[www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)

COMMON REED (*Phragmites australis*)

Origin: Global

THE PROBLEM: Common reed is one of the world's worst wetland invaders. It grows in thick, tall stands crowding out native plants for space and sunlight, degrading habitat for birds and other wildlife, and impairing visibility along roadsides creating a safety hazard. It spreads aggressively through running roots and also by fragmentation. It can regenerate from a piece of plant less than 1 inch in size. Infestations can overtake hundreds of acres and displace critical wetland species.

HOW TO IDENTIFY: Common reed is a grass that grows in wet areas and is the tallest plant in the marsh, growing over 12 feet in height. Its leaves and stems are stiff and sharp. Large, feathery plumes of flowers change from purple-brown in July to tan-grey by late in the season.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Do not mow common reed or manually cut it down. Mowing and cutting spreads this species and causes it to grow back in thick stands. Excavation of small infestations or foliar spray and stem injection of glyphosate-based herbicides are effective means for control - follow regulations.

Observer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date species was observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Thank you for your help in the fight against  
invasive species!