



COMMON REED

Phragmites communis

Located in fresh and alkaline marshes, pond margins, ditches and, in general, damp, disturbed areas throughout the Division.

This large, coarse perennial grass often invades wet areas that have been disturbed. The erect stems stand 1.5-4 m tall and end in a dense flowering head. Leaves are green; 15-60 cm long; 1-6 cm wide. The plants often grow in dense stands arising from stout rhizomes. Spikelets crowded with long silky hairs on flowering heads to 50 cm long; purplish when young turning fluffy white with age.

Generally has little food value to wildfowl, however it does serve as food for muskrats and supports insects which serve as food for fish. It is useful as a stabilizing plant in areas subject to erosion, however, may become a nuisance by out competing more valuable plants. Also of value for dewatering dredged materials.



RC

Notes