



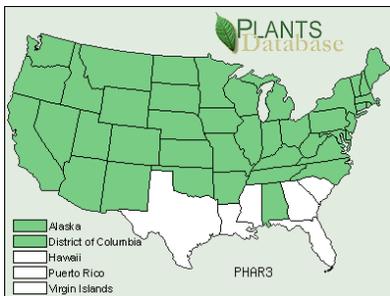
Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*

Native Origin: temperate regions of Europe, Asia, and North America; planted throughout the U.S. since the 1800's for forage and erosion control

Description: Reed canary grass is a large, coarse grass in the grass family (Poaceae) that reaches 2 to 9 feet in height. It has an erect, hairless stem with gradually tapering leaf blades 3 1/2 to 10 inches long and 1/4 to 3/4 inch in width. Blades are flat and have a rough texture on both surfaces. The lead ligule is membranous and long. The compact panicles are erect or slightly spreading (depending on the plant's reproductive stage), and range from 3 to 16 inches long with branches 2 to 12 inches in length. Single flowers occur in dense clusters in May to mid-June. They are green to purple at first and change to beige over time. Shiny brown seeds ripen in late June and are dispersed by waterways, animals, humans and machines. Roots have short, stout rhizomes that root at the nodes forming a thick fibrous root mass. It reproduces by seeds and creeping rhizomes.



Habitat: Reed canary grass can grow on dry soils in upland habitats and in the partial shade of oak woodlands, but does best on fertile, moist organic soils in full sun. This species can invade most types of wetlands, including marshes, wet prairies, sedge meadows, fens, stream banks, ditches and seasonally wet areas; it also grows in disturbed areas such as berms and spoil-piles.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in AK, CO, CT, DE, ID, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, MI, MO, MT, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, TN, VA, WA, and WI.

Ecological Impacts: It has become naturalized in much of the northern United States and southern Canada. Over time, it can form large colonies that spread throughout a wetland or floodplain. It is now invading forested sites and limiting tree regeneration. Few plants can grow in areas dominated by reed canary grass.

Control and Management: Stands are difficult to eradicate because the huge seed banks will recolonize the site. No single method works everywhere.



- **Manual-** Small patches can be dug up or covered with black plastic for at least one growing season; close mow 3 times per year; bobcats can be used to remove plants and underlying soil with seed bank.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides approved for areas of standing water or for aquatic application. Glyphosate can be used select areas and conditions. Imazapic is best for long-term control of reed canary grass but may harm sedges. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.angelfire.com/on2/EVS/reedcanarygrass.html
Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 75-76