*Green County Early Detection and Response non-native phragmites control plan 2021*

Dear landowner,

Thank you for allowing us to aid in controlling non-native Phragmites (*Phragmites australis australis*) on your property. Phragmites is a tall, hardy invasive grass that is a risk to the ecology and economy of Wisconsin. Invasive, non-native stands can become so dense that diverse wetland plant communities are eliminated, areas are made impassable to hunters, and block right of way line of sight while being immune to mowing.

Phragmites is prohibited in Green County by NR 40, the invasive species rule. For this reason, we are undergoing a control project with the help of landowners, Applied Ecology Services, and the Green County Land and Water Conservation Department to eradicate initial invasions to prevent further large infestations

Populations of Phragmites found within low density counties are prime candidates for control. In the western half of the state an attempt is being made to eliminate all of its few stands. In the western prohibited counties, landowners are responsible for controlling their populations.

The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association has been working with Todd Jenson of Green County to acquire funding in Green County through non-competitive, Early Detection & Rapid Response grants for these small populations. It is common that once a landowner has been contacted regarding Phragmites control, they often reveal additional locations nearby, and inform their neighbors, who in turn, request treatment as well. We ask for your help in following up on these sites and letting us know of nearby infestations so we can continue our work.

We ask that you DO NOT cut or burn the impacted areas during the growing while we are in our 2021- 2022 management plan. The plant needs healthy leaves to uptake the herbicide in to its roots for best control. Winter clearing and an early season mow over can be useful, but we need at least 4 feet of vertical growth for the late fall spray to be effective.

The following pages outline some of the details of this invasive grass as well as a guideline for do-it-yourself control in dry areas. Remember that wet areas would require further permits. Repeat monitoring is requested to be sure we have done the job to a successful conclusion. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Matt

Matthew Wallrath  
Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association  
PO Box 314  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
Office: (608) 437-7707  
[matt@uppersugar.org](mailto:matt@uppersugar.org)  
[uppersugar.org](http://uppersugar.org/)