

Giant reed grass

Phragmites australis

Minnesota C-Value: 1
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW+
Native



Leaves: Flat, elongate, smooth, up to 2 1/2 in. wide and 8-16 in. long. Leaves are sheathed at base around the stem. White fringed ligule to 1 mm.

Stems: Very stout and tall, becoming reddish near the base. Has dark, distinct joints. Height ranges from 8-16 ft tall.

Flowers and fruit: Large panicles up to 16 in. long. Feathery at maturity due to silky hairs on spikelets. Spikelets 10-17 mm long, with 3-8 flowers.

Plant communities: Sedge and wet meadows, fens, swamps, bogs, stream beds, shallow marshes. Can grow in mudflats or in up to 6 feet of water.

Comments: Aggressive perennial spreading by stolons, rhizomes, and seed to produce clonal colonies. Subspecies *americanus* is native, while subspecies *australis* is native to Europe and is even more aggressive. Non-native subspecies have a denser inflorescence, darker green-grey leaf color, and less red coloration on stems.

