Phragmites australis: Keeping Momentum

A guide to Continue local Efforts after A large - Scale treatment
COMMUNITY IS KEY
IN THE CONTINUED EFFORT AGAINST PHRAGMITES!

A landowner’s next steps after a large-scale treatment:

ADOPT-A-SHORELINE
Keep the efforts going by having landowners monitor a stretch of shoreline on their property, or near it, for new or regrown Phragmites populations. Advise them to remove any pieces of Phragmites that wash ashore and place them in a high and dry location to watch for growth and report any growing Phragmites to the local Coordinator for mapping. Identifying a local ‘Champion’, someone whom shows great interest in keeping Phragmites managed, can help coordinate monitoring efforts in their neighborhood.

CONTROL IT THEMSELVES
Through management it is possible to decrease Phragmites infestations to levels that allow for regeneration of native shoreline and wetland plant communities and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat. Whether they use a foliar treatment, bundle/cut application (see inset regarding permits) or mechanical removal, i.e. push mowing or weed whacking, persistence can be very effective. If they’re not able to conduct work themselves, they can hire a certified contractor.


SHARE THIS INFORMATION
Invite neighbors to learn more about Phragmites. Encourage local landowner associations or community groups that are present in the area to help join in the effort. For example, some property owner associations may have a 50/50 grant program to help their members pay half the cost of hiring a contractor to control invasive species on their property or a neighborhood could have a volunteer obtain the necessary certification and permits to treat Phragmites in their neighborhood.

HIRING A CONTRACTOR:
Wet areas that are invaded by Phragmites may require a DNR permit and the applicator to be certified if being treated with herbicides. To find a Department of Agriculture aquatic certified commercial applicator go to: http://www.kellysolutions.com/WI/Applicators/index.asp

PERMITS & HERBICIDES:
A state permit may be required if the proposed treatment area is wet at the time of treatment. This means that an individual will get their socks wet if they stood at the location without shoes.

Any herbicide application made near the water or below the ordinary high water mark (regardless of being wet at the time of treatment) requires an aquatic approved herbicide be used. Aquatic approved herbicides should be used in areas that are wet or seasonally wet at the time of treatment. A variety of herbicides are aquatic approved, but some commonly used trade names include Rodeo, Aqua Neat, or Clear Cast.

See for more information.
COMMITMENT IS KEY

With grants becoming increasingly competitive along with the uncertainty of obtaining proper funding to conduct additional treatment projects, the next step is to request local municipalities to adopt a noxious weed ordinance to provide the opportunity for invasive species efforts to go beyond grant awards.

An involved and informed community is always the main goal. Providing education and outreach is what makes a continued effort successful. The intent of an ordinance is not to enforce, but to show the community members that municipalities are serious about protecting their properties, their view, and their recreational needs.

An ordinance allows a municipality to treat listed invasives present on private properties, but more importantly provides access to vacant and/or absent owner properties. With an ordinance in place, landowners that practice good land management will not see their efforts for managing their properties impeded by others not doing their part. A community effort is key to successful management.

STEPS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

- Wis. Stats. §66.0407 provides municipalities the ability to create and enforce an ordinance to combat noxious weeds. NR40 provides a list of all of the noxious weeds for the state of Wisconsin and provides the classification of restricted or prohibited. This provides municipalities a resource to select and prioritize species that are of concern for their specific area and ecosystem. (Local natural resource professionals can help in species selection.)

- After ordinance adoption hold a public meeting to provide information/education on the selected species.
  - This provides the opportunity to identify landowners that will be willing to be a “Champion” in the efforts.
  - Have local “Champions” work with the local weed management group, County representative, or municipal board member. This person will need access to digital mapping tools for invasive inventories.
  - Recruit more volunteers - whether neighbors, homeowners, associations, or by creating a ‘friends’ group to help conduct inventory in their neighborhood.
  - Once completed data can be uploaded to a map and shared with the municipal board and/or a contractor.

- The municipality can create and mail permission letters to be filled out by individual landowners and returned to the town to treat.
  - Permission can provide another educational opportunity and the possibility of a donation to assist with funding future treatments.
  - It will also allow for tracking landowners that have confirmed Phragmites, but have not voluntarily allowed treatments.
  - The “Champions” can aide in obtaining signatures through individual educational efforts.

Town of Jacksonport Ordinance
ORDINANCE # 02-2014

An ordinance regulating noxious and invasive species

The Town Board of the Town of Jacksonport, Door County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

1. **Authority**. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to authority granted in Wis. Stats §66.0407 and Wis. Stats §60.22 (3).

2. **Purpose.** This Ordinance codifies the requirement for property owners to destroy noxious and invasive weeds upon their property in the Town of Jacksonport and provides the Town enforcement authority to require such action.

5.2 *Noxious Weeds*

5.2.010. **Adoption of Statute.**
Wis. Stats. §66.0407 as hereafter amended is adopted by reference.

5.2.020. **Noxious Weeds Defined.**
In addition to those weeds defined by Wis. Stats. §66.0407, as amended, the Town specifically includes the following which are defined as noxious weeds: Phragmites, wild parsnip, ...

5.2.030. **Enforcement.**
The Town Board or Town Chairman shall enforce this section. If any person fails to comply with the provisions of Wis. Stats. §66.0407, as amended and as adopted by the Town of Jacksonport, the town may, after five (5) days written notice to the owner, cause the premises to be mowed or sprayed and shall report the cost thereof to the Town Clerk. This cost shall be entered on the tax roll as a special charge for services under Wis. Stats. §66.0627.

5.2.040. **Penalties.**
Any person owning, occupying or controlling land in the Town of Jacksonport who fails to destroy all noxious weeds as required herein shall forfeit not less than $50 nor more than $200. Each day that a violation exists is considered a separate violation. In addition, the court may impose upon each person violating this section an assessment for court costs and all costs and fees, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the Town in enforcement of this section.

**Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective after the date of its passage and publication as required by law.
COORDINATION IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT!