

## Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)



Marginal  
Aquatic Plant



*Large grass with bamboo-like stems*



*Large, fluffy, purplish-brown flower heads*

Phragmites is a perennial grass that grows up to 3m tall, found on the margins of fresh and saline water bodies, in wetlands and swampy areas.

This is a very large grass with bamboo-like stems carrying long, wide flat leaves, that taper to a point. The flower heads are large, fluffy and purplish-brown. The seed grain is covered in silky hairs. The plant spreads quickly by its rhizomes which may grow to 2 m deep and spread 20 m horizontally before producing an above ground shoot, but seeding is rare, not known to occur in New Zealand.

Spread is by rhizome movement by water, animals or machinery.

**This plant is very rare in New Zealand, but has the potential to become a very serious problem. If you think you have found some of it, contact your Regional Council immediately.**