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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- *Committee Reports* ... *CR*
- *Executive Sessions* ... *ES*
- *Public Hearings* ... *PH*

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- *Appointments* ... *Appt* (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- *Clearinghouse Rules* ... *CRule* (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- *Hearing Records* ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  (ab = Assembly Bill) (ar = Assembly Resolution) (ajr = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  (sb = Senate Bill) (sr = Senate Resolution) (sjr = Senate Joint Resolution)
- *Miscellaneous* ... *Misc*

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (June/2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 614

Relating to: the operation of motor vehicles on the exposed beds of outlying waters to control Phragmites australis.

By Senators Hansen and Holperin; cosponsored by Representatives Soletski, Nygren, Van Roy, Bies, A. Ott and Townsend.

March 11, 2010 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

April 1, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Dave Hansen — 30th Senate District
- Bob Fraik — Marinette County, District 19
- Gary Guenette — City of Marinette
- Chuck Boyle, Marinette

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Greg Cleereman — Marinette County
- Pat Ravet — Town of Peshtigo
- Heather Guenette — City of Marinette
- Ted Sauve — Marinette County
- Laurene D, Marinette — Marinette County
- Liz Stephens — Wisconsin Counties Association

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 8, 2010 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.
Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Hansen, seconded by Senator Kedzie that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.
Noes: (0) None.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Hansen, seconded by Senator Kedzie that **Senate Bill 614** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk


FORWARD
E PLURIBUS UNUM

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
DAVE HANSEN
SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

TESTIMONY: SENATE BILL 614
SENATE TRANSORTATION, TOURISM, FORESTRY, and NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
4/1/10

Chairman Holperin, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 614. This bill would make it easier for property owners in my district and on the bay of Green Bay as well as Lake Michigan and Lake Superior to remove an extremely troublesome and invasive plant called phragmites.

Over the past several years, after having this issue brought to our attention, Representative Nygren and I have been working to find a resolution to what can best be described a rapidly growing problem.

Phragmites are extremely problematic and have virtually taken over the shores of Green Bay along my district. As you will hear from some of my constituents who are here today, phragmites are a major source of concern with respect to its impact on the local environment and native plants and habitat, property values and the ability of area residents and homeowners to enjoy the Bay.

As you will hear, phragmites also present a significant fire danger in the areas where they exist.

In the past Rep. Nygren and I worked with staff and officials from the DNR to make changes to the General Permit process that we hoped would resolve the concerns of our constituents with respect to their ability to remove these plants. Unfortunately, many of our constituents did not find the changes all that helpful and requested that a legislative solution be pursued to resolve this problem.

The result of this effort is the bill that is before you.

- SB-614 is a straightforward bill that exempts the use of motor vehicles on lakebeds for the sole purpose of removing phragmites so long as the following conditions are met:
- The operation of the motor vehicle is for the purpose of mowing or applying an herbicide for the purpose of controlling Phragmites australis.
- The operation of the motor vehicle occurs only on the exposed bed of the outlying water and only when the exposed bed is dry.
- The operation of the motor vehicle occurs between the period beginning on August 1 of a given year and ending on March 15 of the following year.
- The mowing or application of the herbicide interferes with or destroys native species only to the degree that is necessary to control the invasive species Phragmites australis.

While I understand there are those on both sides of this issue who may have concerns with this bill I believe it is a reasonable compromise that represents our best chance to provide relief to the people and communities who have to deal with this problem year after year.

Thank you.

Committees
Joint Committee on Finance, Senate Vice Chair
Education
Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations
Senate Organization
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

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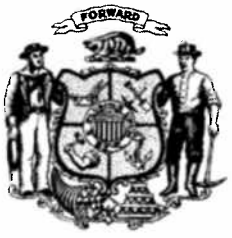
WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



SB 614 folder

Phragmites

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Phragmites australis, the **common reed**, is a large perennial grass found in wetlands throughout temperate and tropical regions of the world. It is sometimes regarded as the sole species of the genus *Phragmites*, though some botanists divide *Phragmites australis* into three or four species and in particular the South Asian Khagra Reed (*P. karka*) is often treated as distinct.[2]

Phragmites

Phragmites australis seed head in winter

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Monocots
(unranked):	Commelinids
Order:	Poales
Family:	Poaceae
Subfamily:	Arundinoideae
Tribe:	Arundineae[1]
Genus:	***Phragmites***
Species:	***P. australis***

Binomial name

Phragmites australis
(Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

Contents

Growth

Common reed commonly forms extensive stands (known as reed beds), which may be as much as a square kilometer or more in extent. Where conditions are suitable it can spread at 5 metres (16 ft) or more per year by horizontal runners, which put down roots at regular intervals. It can grow in damp ground, in standing water (up to a meter or so deep), or even as a floating mat. The erect stems grow to 2–6 metres (6 ft 7 in–19 ft 8 in) tall, with the tallest plants growing in areas with hot summers and fertile growing conditions.

The leaves are long for a grass, 20–50 centimetres (7.9–20 in) and 2–3 centimetres (0.79–1.2 in) broad. The flowers are produced in late summer in a dense, dark purple panicle, about 20–50 cm long. Later the numerous long, narrow, sharp pointed spikelets appear greyer due to the growth of long, silky hairs.

It is especially common in alkaline habitats, and it also tolerates brackish water,[3] and so is often found at the upper edges of estuaries and on other wetlands (such as grazing marsh) which are occasionally inundated by the sea.

Common reed is suppressed where it is grazed regularly by livestock. Under these conditions it either grows as small shoots within the grassland sward, or it disappears altogether.

Taxonomy

The generally accepted botanical name of common reed is *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.. However, it is still often known as *Phragmites communis* Trin.; other synonyms include *Arundo phragmites* L. (the basionym), *Phragmites altissimus, P. berlandieri, P. dioicus, P. maximus, P. vulgaris*.

Wildlife

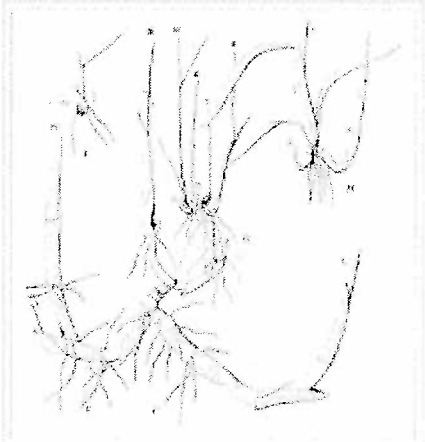
A previously sandy beach invaded by reeds.

Reed beds

Main article: Reed bed

Common reed is very important (together with other reed-like plants) for wildlife and conservation, particularly in Europe and Asia, where several species of birds are strongly tied to large *Phragmites* stands. These include:

- Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*)
- Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
- Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)



Three Phragmites seedlings, A very young, C the oldest (3-4 months). Roman numerals denote different shoot generations. Sc = scutellum. From (Warming 1884)

Invasive reeds

In North America, the status of the species was misunderstood. It was commonly considered to be an exotic species, not native but introduced from Europe; however, there is now clear evidence of the existence of *Phragmites* native in North America long before European colonisation of the continent. It is now known that the North American native forms of *Phragmites* are markedly less vigorous than European forms; the recent marked increase in *Phragmites* in North America may be due to a vigorous, but otherwise almost indistinguishable European form of the species, best detectable by genetic analysis. This is causing serious problems for many other North American wetland plants, including the local form of the species.[3] Gallic acid released by Phragmites is degraded by ultraviolet light to produce mesoxalic acid, effectively hitting susceptible plants and seedlings with two harmful toxins.[4]

Recent studies have characterised morphological variation among the introduced and native stands of *Phragmites* in North America. The Eurasian genotype can be distinguished from the North American genotype by its shorter ligules of up to 0.9 millimetres (0.04 in) as opposed to over 1.0 millimetre (0.04 in), shorter glumes of under 3.2 millimetres (0.13 in) against over 3.2 millimetres (0.13 in) (although there is some overlap in this character), and in culm characteristics. Recently, the North American genotype has been described as a distinct subspecies, *Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus* Saltonstall, Peterson, and Soreng; the Eurasian genotype is referred to as *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*.

In Europe, common reed is rarely invasive, except in damp grasslands where traditional grazing has been abandoned.

Uses

Thatching

Main article: Thatching

Reed is used in many areas for thatching roofs. In the British Isles, common reed used for this purpose is known as *Norfolk reed* or *water reed*. However "wheat reed" and "Devon reed", also used for thatching, are not in fact reed, but long-stemmed wheat straw.

Water treatment

Main article: Constructed wetland

Reed is the main wetland species used for water treatment.

Waste water from bathrooms, lavatories and kitchens is routed to an underground septic tank-like compartment where the solid waste is allowed to settle out. The water then trickles through a *constructed wetland* or *artificial reed bed* (not to be confused with the natural reed bed habitat), where bacterial action on the surface of roots and leaf litter removes some of the nutrients. The water is then suitable for irrigation or discharge to watercourses.

Other uses

Some other uses for reeds in various cultures include baskets, mats, pen tips, and a crude form of paper.[5]

In the Philippines, Phragmites is known by the local name "tambo". Reed stands flower in December, and the blooms are harvested and bundled into brooms called "walis". Hence the common name of household brooms is "walis tambo".

In Australian Aboriginal cultures, reeds were used to make weapons like spears for hunting game.[6]

In literature

One reference to reeds in European literature is Frenchman Blaise Pascal's saying that Man is but a

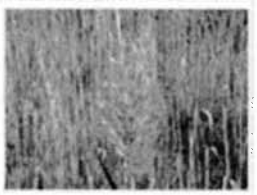
'thinking reed' (*roseau pensant*). In La Fontaine's famous fable (*The Oak and the Reed, Le chêne et le roseau*), the reed tells the proud oak: "I bend, and break not" ("*Je plie, et ne romps pas*"), before the tree's fall.

Moses was "drawn out of the water where his mother had placed him in a reed basket to save him from the death that had been decreed by the Pharaoh against the firstborn of all of the children of Israel in Egypt" (Exodus 2:10).[7]. However, the plant concerned may have been another reed-like plant, such as papyrus, which is still used for making boats.

Reed stems in flower, in France

Reed growth in early summer

Roadside reed left from previous year, in Hungary



Reed stems in autumn, in Virginia

Common reed in winter, Sudbury, MA, USA

References

1. ^ "Phragmites australis". *Germplasm Resources Information Network*. United States Department of Agriculture. 2007-05-09. http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?28091. Retrieved 2009-02-10.
2. ^ "Phragmites". *Germplasm Resources Information Network*. United States Department of Agriculture. 2007-05-09. http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/genus.pl?9280. Retrieved 2009-02-10.
3. ^ *a b* issg Database: Ecology of Phragmites australis
4. ^ Changing Climate May Make 'Super Weed' Even More Powerful Newswise, Retrieved on June 4, 2009.
5. ^ Phragmite
6. ^ Unaipon, D. (2001) *Legendary Tales of the Australian Aborigines*, p. 138, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne. ISBN 0 522 85246 7.
7. ^ usu.edu

See also

- Constructed wetland
- Deben Estuary
- Reed bed
- Reed fields

External links

- Online Field guide to Common Saltmarsh Plants of Queensland
- Invading Species.com Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

- Cryptic invasion by a non-native genotype of the common reed, Phragmites australis, into North America (pdf file)
- *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed beds. On the MarLIN website.
- Brandweiner O. et al., *Phragmites australis* as Alternative Fuel for Clinker Production, DeopTech 2006, Leoben, Austria

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phragmites"
Categories: Arundinoideae | Herbal and fungal hallucinogens | Psychedelic tryptamine carriers | Poaceae genera