

# CHISAGO COUNTY INVASIVE PHRAGMITES SURVEY

Invasive phragmites is a non-native, semi-aquatic perennial grass that is native to Europe. It is known as “Invasive Common Reed.” It is tall (reaching up to 15 feet) and densely growing. It is found in wetlands, river bank areas, on shorelines, and in roadside ditches.

Invasive phragmites grows fast and can take over shoreland and wetland areas, push out native vegetation, reduce habitat quality for wildlife, obstruct lake views and block water access.

In the fall of 2020, Chisago County contracted with the St. Croix River Association (SCRA) to monitor and map roadside populations of invasive phragmites located within Nessel and Fish Lake Townships in the northern portion of Chisago County. These populations were identified using morphological characteristics, following the protocol developed by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

During their survey, the SCRA found one unreported population of invasive phragmites. This population is located on private property in Nessel Township near West Rush Lake. The goal is to continue the road side surveys each year to determine all roadside locations of invasive phragmites in Chisago County.

For more information, or for help on how to identify invasive phragmites, visit the University of Minnesota at [www.maisrc.umn.edu/identifying-phragmites](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/identifying-phragmites).



U of M, MAISRC, [www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-phragmites](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-phragmites)

## Partners:

- St. Croix River Association
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

## Miles of Road Surveyed:

- Fish Lake Township  
— 91.2 miles
- Nessel Township  
— 104.9 miles

Phragmites Seedhead  
Caleb Slemmons, National  
Ecological Observatory  
Network, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

