

**Non-native Phragmites Inspection Report**  
Invasive Species Program  
Division of Ecological Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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<b>Lake:</b> Turtle Lake	<b>DOW Number:</b> 62006100	<b>Date of inspection:</b> 2 Dec 2013
<b>County:</b> Ramsey		<b>Observers:</b> K. Lund, C. Welling
<b>Type of inspection:</b> <i>Phragmites australis</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>		<b>Result:</b> <b>CONFIRMED NON-NATIVE</b>
<b>Author[s] of report:</b> Keegan Lund		<b>Date of report:</b> 16 Dec 2013

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**Summary:** A tall wetland grass known as common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*), commonly called phragmites, was reported to be present in Turtle Lake. The report was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by lakeshore resident Kevin Ousdigian in November, 2013. Ousdigian submitted photos and a report regarding the suspected invasive species on the central-eastern shore of Turtle Lake. The photos indicated characteristics of the invasive phragmites: dark green coloration, dense seed head, and monotypic growth patterns (see photos 1 below).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program staff conducted an inspection of the site (see photos 2-4 below) and confirmed that the identified plant was the non-native, invasive variety of this grass. The plant's distribution initially seemed isolated to a number of dense patches with scattered occurrences along the eastern shore (see map 1 below). In addition to the invasive phragmites, the native phragmites (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*) was identified along with other emergent native plant species. Further inspection would be necessary to assess the lake-wide distribution of the invasive phragmites.

Currently, *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis* is not legally designated as an invasive species by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (see Minnesota Statute 84D.04). Nevertheless, it is listed as an invasive species on the DNR website (see below link). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has designated it as a restricted noxious weed. This designation prohibits the importation, sale and transportation of the plant except for as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 18.82. The invasive characteristics (i.e. invasiveness) of the non-native phragmites and statewide distribution in Minnesota are uncertain at this point. The plant has been observed in isolated wetlands across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area but has not been documented along the shores of many Minnesota lakes. More information concerning state-wide distribution, treatment efficacy, and rates of spread are needed in order to determine the risk posed by the non-native common reed.

For more information concerning invasive phragmites refer to the below websites.

DNR: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/phragmites/index.html>

DNR statute on invasive species: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=84D>

MDA: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/badplants/noxiouslist.aspx>

USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/phraus/all.html>

Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative: <http://greatlakesphragmites.net/>



*Photo 1: Close-up of Phragmites, note darker green color and dense, seed head. Photo - Kevin Ousdigian.*



*Photo 2: Dense, monotypic Phragmites stand. Plant height was measured on select plants was over 10 feet in length. Photo - Keegan Lund, MNDNR.*



Photo 3: Close-up of non-native, Phragmites seed head.  
Photo - Keegan Lund, MNDNR.

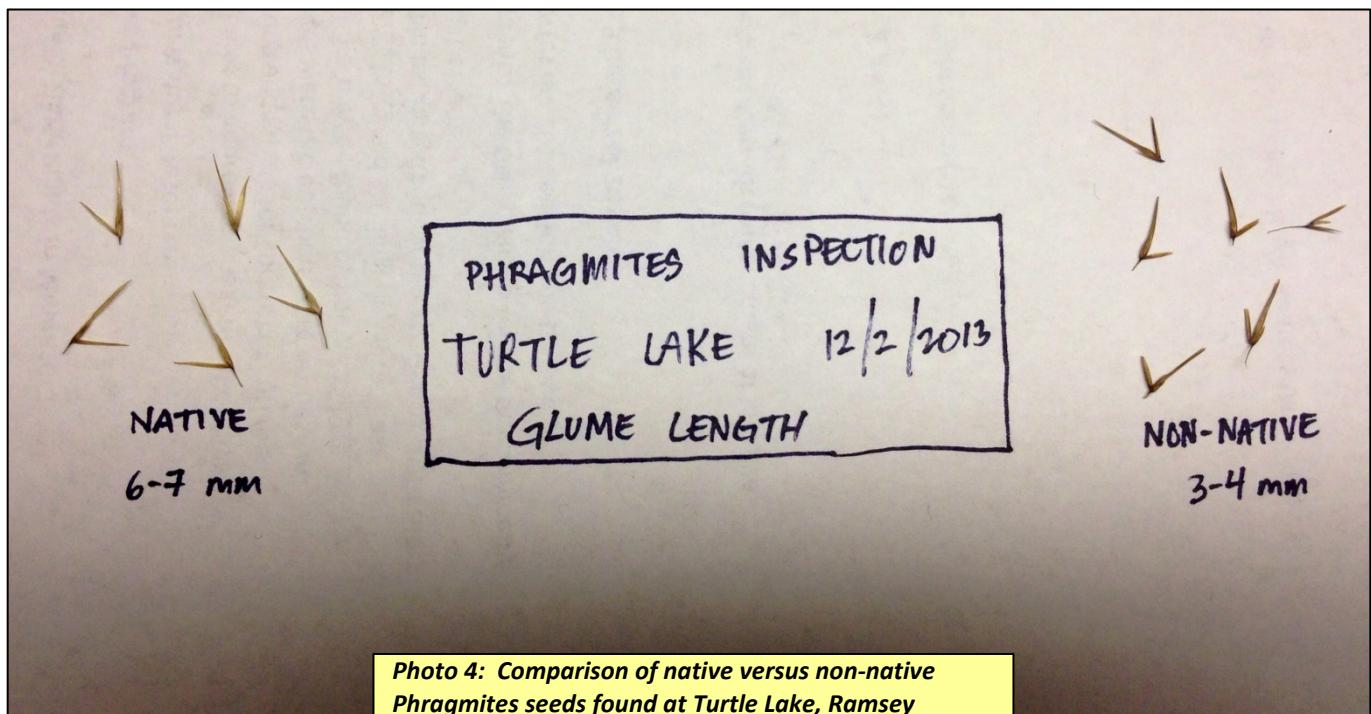


Photo 4: Comparison of native versus non-native Phragmites seeds found at Turtle Lake, Ramsey County. Non-native, invasive Phragmites has longer glume length as indicated in photo. Photo - Keegan Lund, MNDNR.



*Photo 5 & 6: Comparison of May 2010 photo (upper) versus Dec. 2013 photo (lower). Non-native phragmites does appear to be spreading and was documented at low distribution near the water's edge.*  
Photo - Keegan Lund & Sean Sisler, MNDNR.



## Phragmites Australis (australis) Inspection: Turtle Lake, Ramsey County

### Legend

- Phragmites occurrences
- Track
- Dense Phragmites growth
- Turtle lake OHW

Phragmites inspection area

Turtle Lake

Public Water Access



0 30 60 120 180 240 Meters

Keegan Lund  
MNDNR Invasive Species Program  
Inspected on: 2 December 2013  
Map created on: 16 December 2013

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