



Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)

Grass Family

Photos by Michael Shephard, USDA Forest Service, and Jamie Nielsen, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service, Bugwood.org.

Invasiveness Rank: 83

- Tall reed-like perennial rising from stout rhizomes. Stems are hollow, 2 to 6 feet tall, with bluish-green waxy coating. Leaf blades flat, up to 3/4 inch wide, with clasping ligules. Leaves rough, sheaths open. Panicle inflorescence is 6 to 18 cm long with spikelets occurring in clusters on short scabrous branches. Seed heads reddish to purplish at base, becoming straw colored; compact at first then opening at maturity.
- Highly variable species preferring moist sites. Begins growing early in the season.
- **Forms dense, persistent, monospecific stands. Dead winter foliage forms dense mats that retard the growth of other plants. Difficult to impossible to eradicate once established. Spreads within sites by creeping rhizomes, effectively excluding all other vegetation. Found along roadsides, ditches, wetlands, riparian areas, beaches, and growing into lakes.**

