

## Background:

Reed Canary Grass is a perennial that gets 3-5' tall and grows in wetland and wet meadows. It is native to North America and Eurasia. It was planted as a source of forage and soil erosion.



Dense stand of Reed Canary Grass

# Reed Canary Grass

(*Phalaris arundinacea*)

## Impact on Native Habitat:

Reed Canary likes to inhabit floodplains, wetlands, swamps, marshes, met meadows, and generally any moist areas. It is an aggressive grass that can outcompete native plants, reducing biodiversity. If left un-managed it can form a monoculture in wet, low lying areas. Because the grass gets tall and can form colonies, it does provide protective cover for wetland birds, snakes, insects, and other wildlife.

## Identification

**Leaves:** The blades are up to 10" long and 3/4" wide. They are green or grayish blue, linear, flat, hairless, and rough-textured along the margins. Base of each blade is wider than the culm.



**Stems:** Culms are light to medium green, hairless, circular, and unbranched. Several alternate leaves occur along the lower half of the culm.



**Flowers:** No flower forms on this invasive grass. However does form a distinguishable seed head that is tan, long and forms a point.



**Seeds:** Grains are 3-4mm in length and are narrow. They are lightly colored being tan or creamy colored and darkening maturity.



## How to Kill: Eradication

- 1. Hand pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the resprouts.
- 2. Prescribed Burning-** Fire can be used as a pre-treatment prior to herbicide application and can be effective control if native plants are present and able to compete. May require a 5-6 year fire regime before control is evident.

- 3. Foliar spray-** This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant, which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. This method should be used during the active growing season so care should be taken to avoid spraying non-target species.



Reed Canary Grass after a foliar treatment.