



Australian
Wetlands

Phragmites australis (Common Reed)

Habit

Phragmites is a tall native reed growing up to 3m high and occurs in permanent freshwater bodies, along waterways and sometimes in slightly brackish waters. Grows in 500mm of water and occasionally in deeper water. The vigorous growth of this species allows colonisation of large areas and can displace other wetlands species.

Identifying Features:

- Tall reed which can reach a height of 3m
- Strong, thin, cane-like stem
- Leaves are green and broad approximately 1-3cm wide. Grows at right angles to the stem.
- Flowers form a soft white plume at the top of the plant

Notes:

Phragmites is a robust species common in most freshwater system and often used in biological wastewater treatment systems. *Phragmites* stands provide good habitat for aquatic birds and other animals and protect embankments from erosion. During winter months, *Phragmites* die back (enter senescence) and will appear brown and woody, re-shoot again from rhizomes in the warmer months.

