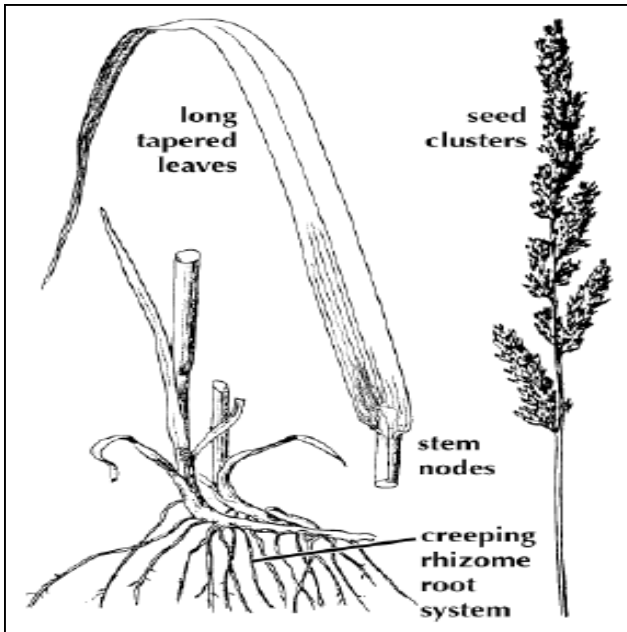
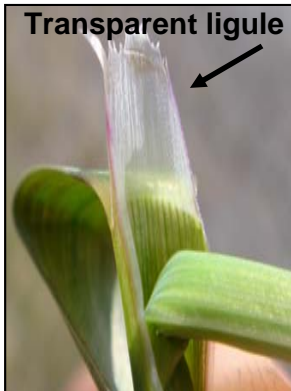


Identification



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. 1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.



Caleb Slemmons Homer SWCD

If you spot reed canarygrass:

- Note location (latitude/longitude if available)
- Note infestation size and approximate stem count. Take a photograph and report it to contacts listed in this pamphlet.

For more information or to report reed canarygrass infestations contact:

- Homer Soil & Water Conservation District (907) 235-8177 x 111
- Cooperative Extension Service (Kenai Peninsula) 1-800-478-5824 / 907-262-5824
- Alaskainvasives.org / 1-877-invasiv (1-877-468-2748)

Project Partners



Reed Canarygrass

Phalaris arundinaceae L.



HIGHLY INVASIVE

Reed canarygrass infestation spreading along the Kenai River



Reed Canarygrass

Phalaris arundinaceae L.

Why is it a problem?

- Reed canarygrass is an aggressive, non-native weed that affects wetlands, rivers, and other areas. It has invaded several rivers in Alaska including the Kenai.
- Reed canarygrass can reduce stream-flow and negatively impact salmon habitat and spawning beds.
- Reed canarygrass forms dense, monocultures that can choke out other species that are important for wildlife forage and habitat.



Reed canarygrass inflorescence in flower (right) and in seed (left).
 Photo Left: Richard Old XID Services
 Photo Right: Jamie Nielson UAF CES

- Reed canarygrass reproduces both by seed and vegetatively through stout, creeping rhizomes (horizontal, underground stems with nodes capable of sending out new roots & shoots).

Integrated Pest Management

IPM is a common sense approach to achieving long-term management of pest problems with minimal impact on human health, the environment and non-target organisms. IPM focuses on the biology of pests and their relationship to the environment. IPM strategies may include the application of physical, cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical controls.

How to manage infestations

Containment

- Mow, harvest and/or graze to prevent it from going to seed.
- Create a buffer between infestations and vulnerable natural areas such as streams, water bodies and wetlands.



Control efforts at Jim's Landing
 Photo: Kenai Watershed Forum

Control/Eradication

- Eradication of local infestations requires 3-6 yrs of effort.
- Frequent mowing may weaken the plant and prepare grass for herbicide application*.



Crew covering infestations.
 Photo: Kenai Watershed Forum

- Small infestations may be removed manually by digging or covering with thick, black plastic.
- Revegetate with appropriate species and monitor the site for regrowth for several years after treatment.

Help prevent the spread of reed canarygrass

- Prevent the transportation of invasive seeds by removing all seeds from your equipment, clothing, pets, and shoes after travelling through an infestation.
- Avoid traveling through infestations and report them (see back).



Hitchhiking seeds!
 Photo: Bob Case Cal-IPC

What does it look like?

- Stems can be 2-6 ft tall
- Leaf blades are rough, flat, 1/4-3/4 inches wide, 2-18 inches in length. To distinguish from other native species look for transparent ligule on sheath (see ID picture on reverse).



Green patches of reed canarygrass along the Slikok River in fall. Photo: Homer SWCD

- This grass greens up earlier and stays greener longer into the fall than most native grasses which helps with ID.