

# Phragmites DNA Screening Program

Confirm before you manage!

Free, kit-based DNA screening in Ontario!



Ontario  
Phragmites  
Action

## NOT ALL PHRAGMITES POPULATIONS ARE INVASIVE

Ontario has **native Phragmites** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *americanus*), which can be difficult to distinguish from **invasive Phragmites** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*). We have also confirmed **hybrids** at multiple sites in Ontario thanks to this program.

## WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

The Phragmites DNA Screening Program offers **free DNA kits** to confirm whether a population is **invasive, native, or hybrid**. It supports effective, efficient planning for Phragmites management in Ontario.

## ABOUT 1 IN 6 ARE MISIDENTIFIED

17% of samples were misidentified before DNA screening  
*Participant identification vs DNA screening results.*

## WHY TEST?

- **Protect native Phragmites** by preventing unnecessary management.
- **Confirm what you have** before investing time and money in management.
- **Free DNA confirmation** makes it worth doing even if you are confident.

## HYBRID PHRAGMITES

- Confirmed at multiple sites in Ontario through this program
- Cannot be reliably confirmed without DNA testing
- **Treat hybrids as invasive** (high priority for management)



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AND SUBMIT  
YOUR REQUEST**

## SEASONAL TIMELINE



### WHEN TO SUBMIT SAMPLES:

#### Managing this season?

- Submit by late July
- Receive results in August

#### Managing next season?

- Submit from August to the fall deadline
- Receive results after the field season

#### NOTE:

Kits are limited each season. To support province-wide coverage, we prioritize requests based on location, number of kits requested, and program needs.

### HOW MANY KITS SHOULD I REQUEST?

Phragmites may appear uniform or have variable characteristics across the stand.

- **Uniform stands** (looks the same throughout): 1 kit
- **Variable stands** (areas that appear different): 1 kit per distinct area

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Samples must be collected within Ontario
- Kits must be used within the year they are distributed
- Coordinates and photos are required for each sample

### ONTARIO PHRAGMITES ACTION (OPA) PROGRAM

By confirming whether stands are invasive, native, or hybrid, the Phragmites DNA Screening Program helps the OPA program focus efforts where they are needed and protect native Phragmites.



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The Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) program is a jointly delivered program by the Invasive Species Centre, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and numerous delivery partners working together to reduce the impact that invasive Phragmites has across the province. We bring partners, rights-holders, municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, and other interested groups together to enable collaborative and coordinated action at a landscape scale. To learn more, visit [ontariophragmitesaction.ca](http://ontariophragmitesaction.ca).