

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Clean Equipment Protocol Checklist

What is Phragmites?

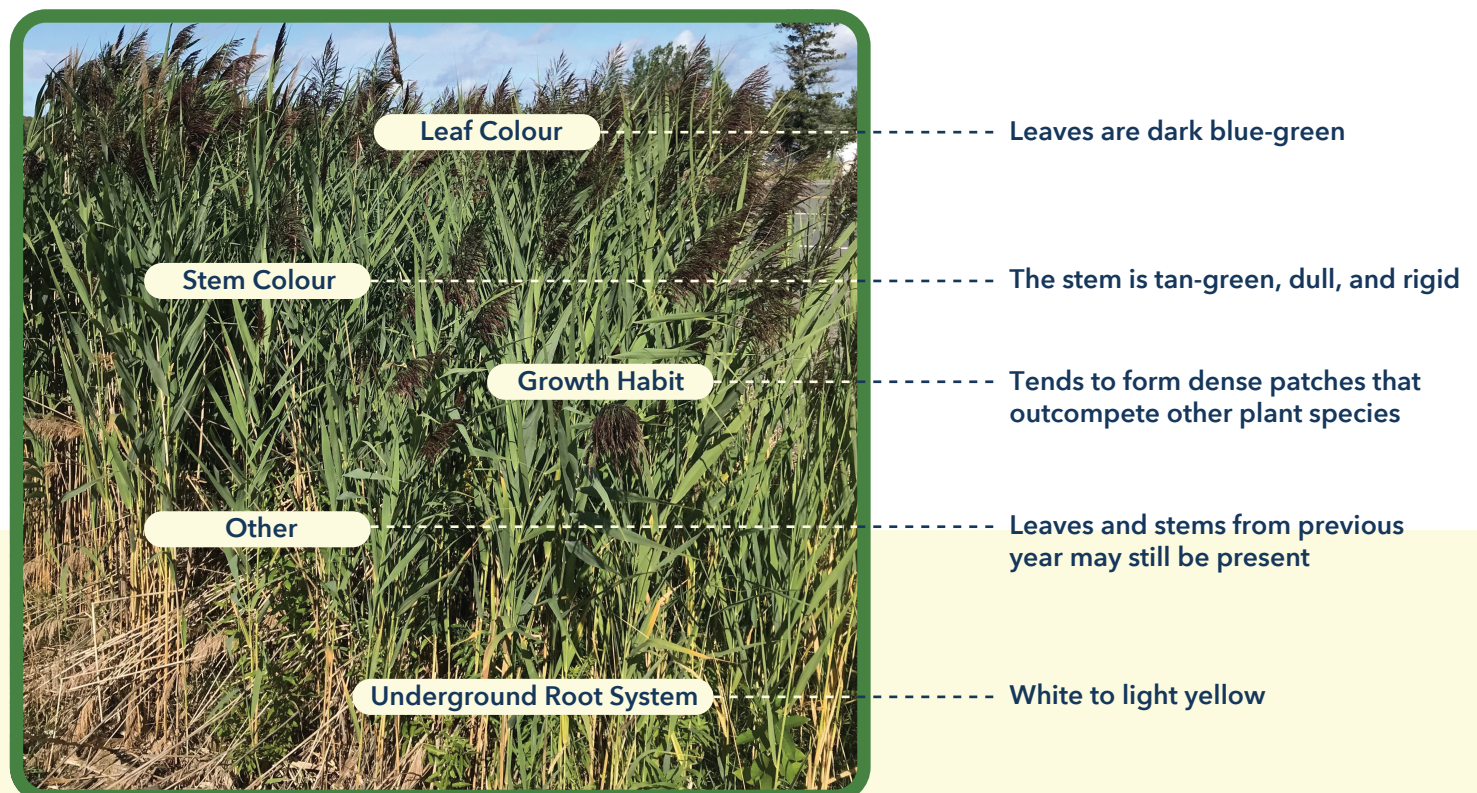
Phragmites australis, also known as the European common reed, is widely considered to be Ontario's worst invasive plant. This aggressive perennial grass is spread rapidly through seeds and root fragments (rhizomes), which are easily transported by vehicles, heavy machinery, and other human activity.

Heavy Equipment Pathways of Spread

Invasive Phragmites impacts industrial and transportation corridors by clogging ditches and increasing maintenance costs.

Contaminated heavy equipment is the most common pathway of spread for Phragmites. Follow the clean equipment protocol provided here to help prevent its spread.

How to Identify Phragmites



Adapted from the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative

Heavy Equipment Cleaning Kit

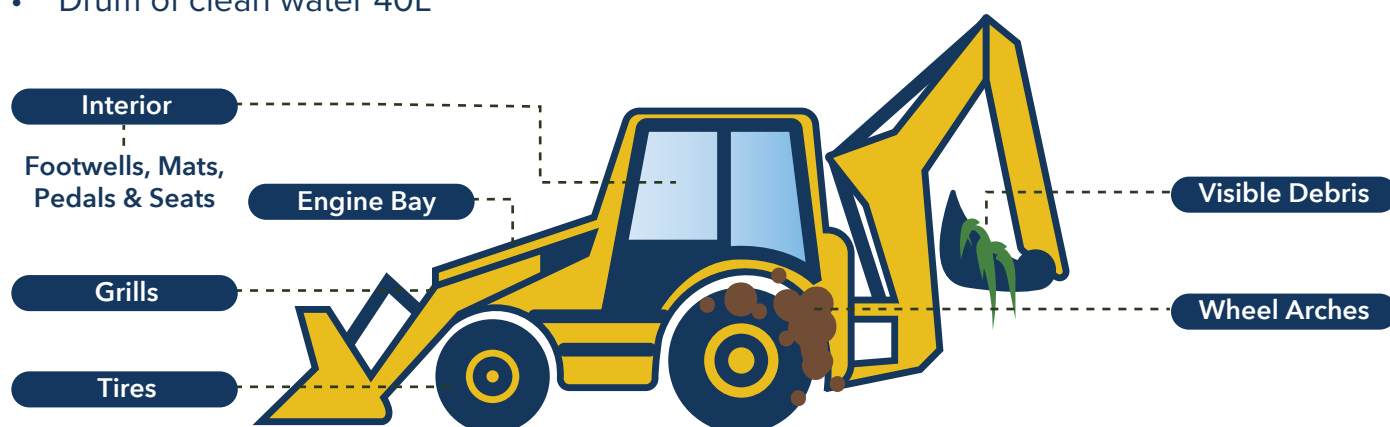
Build a Heavy Equipment Cleaning Kit to properly clean your machinery, gear, and equipment when moving between sites.

Ensure kit has all the following items:

- Plastic tub with a lid (to carry items)
- Separate Plastic Tub Footbath
- Stiff brush
- Long-handled boot brush
- Small plastic or wire brush (for cleaning equipment)
- Large clear plastic bags (for contaminated any PPE)
- Proper disposal/waste bags, such as autoclave bags or thick garbage bags
- Alcohol wipes or gel for hands and personal items
- Two sets of clean PPE Disposable Coveralls/change of clothes and boot covers for entire team
- Disinfectant solution (TBD) and spray bottle
- Two Disinfectant waste bucket 20L
- Drum of clean water 40L

How to Clean Heavy Equipment:

- ☐ Remove large soil clods first (Stiff brush)
- ☐ High-pressure wash tires with soapy water/disinfectant mix, underbody, wheel arches, trays
- ☐ Use air (if possible) on radiators and grills
- ☐ With disinfectant, wipe down or vacuum/blow out vehicle interiors (footwells, mats, pedals, seats)
- ☐ Use high-pressure water at an appropriate level to clean engine bay
- ☐ Conduct a post-clean inspection of vehicle(s)/machine(s) to ensure they are free of visible soil, mud, and plant material, including roots, stems, & seeds
- ☐ Reclean and re-inspect if necessary



Focus areas: Tires, undercarriage, wheel arches, trays, radiators, engine bays, footwells, mats, tools, and boots.



Ontario Phragmites Action

The Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) program builds and enhances a coordinated response to invasive Phragmites across Ontario. The program has been made possible thanks to an important investment from Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and is implemented by the Invasive Species Centre, Nature Conservancy of Canada and a number of other key partners.