

# USACE Invasive Plant Species Best Management Practices

## European Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) - Poaceae (Grasses)



### Habitat & Life History

Present in shallow water— Native to Eurasia & Africa – FACW – Perennial grass

### Integrated Management Strategy Selections

Prevention      Chemical      Biological      Mechanical      Cultural



#### PREVENTION

- Establish competitive native vegetation & mitigate soil disturbance in high-risk areas



#### CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Herbicides—glyphosate, imazapyr
- Use-pattern—foliar spray, hand swiping, wicking, stem injection, apply after flowering
- \*Refer to product label for specific instructions on rate & use-pattern



#### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

- Potential agents—*Archanara geminipuncta* (twin-spotted wainscot moth) & *A. neurica* (stem-feeding moths) —released in Canada, not approved for U.S. as of 2021
- Rearing/Release—utilize laboratory sources, field collection & transport, may require viable plant materials



#### MECHANICAL CONTROL

- Hand pull, dig rhizomes & roots; frequent mowing, stem-breakage, thatch removal
- Be mindful of potential removal-erosion issues; use phased-removal approach or artificial or natural armoring
- Most effective if used in conjunction with herbicide application followed by native vegetation establishment



#### CULTURAL CONTROL

- Prescribed burning; long-term flooding; plant competitive native vegetation



#### MANAGEMENT SEQUENCING

- Timing of control methods—apply chemical control after flowering in mid-late summer; a 6-week post-treatment monitoring period is recommended before soil disturbance or grubbing to confirm efficacy
- Monitoring—monitor control effectiveness following treatment
- Niche-filling/Restoration—perform native plantings to offset competition & erosion control measures



#### COMMENTS

- European common reed spreads primarily from rhizomes and secondarily in some US populations; mechanical control may contribute to re-infestation and spread.

