

## Phragmites Control Program

Over the past two years, Alger Conservation District, in cooperation with Schoolcraft Conservation District and under a grant to UP Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRC&D), sprayed over 40 acres of phragmites in Schoolcraft County. We were able to treat many long stretches of shoreline property for which we had landowner permission, and achieved significant reduction in the size and density of many infestations.

Much work remains to be done, however. Even in the best circumstances, phragmites is a tough and persistent weed. Rechecking and retreatment must usually be done for at least 2 to 5 years after initial treatment to catch any small resprouts. Also, some landowners who did not sign on to the grant program still have untreated infestations; we'd like to find new ways for trusted friends and neighbors to help us spread the word about the importance of phragmites control.

UPRC&D is applying for additional funding to continue treatment and education under the new state grant program. We plan to continue contacting property owners and collecting permission forms for next season, so please do pass the word about our control program.

Landowners, please know these facts:

1. You can always contact me with any questions about our phragmites program and the best ways to handle (or NOT handle) the stuff. That's what we do!
2. Rising lake levels will NOT 'drown the phragmites'. I've been hearing this myth from several landowners this season and I want to dispel it—it couldn't be further from the truth! Phragmites is a wetland plant, and it thrives in the rising lake. It will continue to advance up above the high water mark if given the chance. The proper herbicide applied in the proper amounts and at the proper time (NOT spring or summer, but fall until first hard frost) is the only reliable way to control anything but the smallest infestations of phragmites.
3. Mowing will not control phragmites—it only stimulates the roots. If you want to mow out lake access, that's perfectly fine and legal; but you should NOT do it after July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you mow much later than mid-July, there will not be enough plant surface area for our fall herbicide treatment to be effective.

Give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Teri Grout  
Executive Director  
Alger Conservation District  
101 Court Street  
Munising, MI 49862  
906-387-2222  
Fax: 906-387-2156  
[teri.grout@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:teri.grout@mi.nacdnet.net)  
[teri.grout@macd.org](mailto:teri.grout@macd.org)