



Utah County Public Works Weed Control Standard Procedure for Phragmites Treatment

1. Herbicide Treatment.

- a. Herbicide treatment should take place in August to late fall when seed heads are mature, and plants are sending nutrients to the roots for winter storage. Herbicide treatments should take place before the first hard freeze of fall.
- b. Treat with aquatic glyphosate (non-selective herbicide) at a high concentration rate. Read the herbicide label for application rates and for specific instructions for Phragmites control.
- c. An approved aquatic surfactant is recommended to be added to herbicide spray mixture.
- d. After herbicide application, allow the treated area to sit undisturbed for a minimum of two weeks.
- e. Utah County has applied herbicide to Phragmites in the spring/summer and from experience found that it stresses the plant and stunts its growth. The Phragmites treated any earlier than late summer or fall season usually recovers and still produces seed heads.
- f. Re-treatment of any new Phragmites growth is required in subsequent years.

Note: The information contained herein represents the standard procedures only for treatment of noxious weeds for Utah County. Utah County does not warrant the procedures contained herein. All legal responsibility for herbicide application is the responsibility of the applicator. If you apply an herbicide, make sure you are not violating any laws and/or restriction specified on the label. If applications are in or around water, verify the herbicide carries an aquatic label. If you have any questions regarding treatment of noxious weeds, please contact your local county public works office or Utah State University Extension office.

2. Additional Treatments

- a. Smashing and/or Mowing Treatments
Smashing/Mowing existing stands of Phragmites with ground equipment.
 1. Increases access in project area.
 2. Increases breakdown rate of dead Phragmites.
 3. Makes it easier to see re-growth of Phragmites for follow up treatments.
- b. Grazing
There are many variables with this approach that determine if this type of treatment will be effective in a given area.

Note: Utah County Weed Control smashes Phragmites due to restrictions that are placed on large scale burning and air quality issues that result from burning.

Alternative to Smashing Treatments

- c. Cutting and hauling
- d. Burning (not recommended)
 1. Many controlled burns dealing with Phragmites have burned out of control.
 2. If you choose to burn, make sure that all laws and safety procedure are followed.



Note: Herbicide treatment combined with smashing or removal treatment is highly recommended. Herbicide treatment alone reduces the ability to identify new growth amongst old dead stands of Phragmites, resulting in reduced long term success.

3. Repeat Control Efforts

100% control is not expected in one year's time. For control/eradication of an infestation, it will take years of consecutive monitoring and treatments. In general, you should have a decrease of Phragmites every year of treatment, and over time you might eventually accomplish your goal.

* For additional information on addressing invasive species on state lands adjacent to private property see Utah's Division of Forestry, Fire and State Land's (FFSL) [Guidelines for Invasive Species Removal on Utah Lake](#) and then contact Ben Stireman with FFSL at 385.228.6501 or bstireman@utah.gov for additional information and for the required permitting. All treatment activities on state lands must be preauthorized by the Division.

