



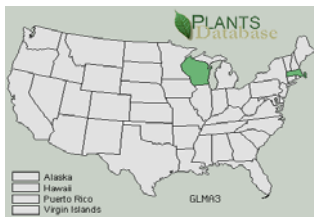
Reed Mannagrass

Glyceria maxima (Hartman) Holmb.

Common Names: reed mannagrass, tall mannagrass, reed sweetgrass, great mannagrass, sweet mannagrass, English water grass

Native Origin: Europe and Asia

Description: A perennial, rhizomatous grass in the grass family (*Poaceae*) that grows from un-branched stems that can reach 8.25 feet in height. Leaf sheaths have prominent midribs, visible transverse veins, and are closed to near the top. The leaf sheaths are rough in texture and have a reddish-brown band at the junction with the leaf. The un-lobed, membranous ligules are smooth and obtuse in shape. Leaf blades are flat, 8-12 inches long and 0.75 inches wide. The leaf blades are shallowly grooved with prominent midribs. The leaf margins have short, stiff hairs that are rough to the touch. The plants are bisexual. Flowers appear from June to August. At maturity, the inflorescence is an open panicle that rises above the subtending foliage. The small dark brown seeds are 0.07 inches long, smooth in texture, and egg-shaped with a deep narrow central furrow. It reproduces and spreads primarily by means of rhizomes. The foraging activities of muskrats and beavers may cause uprooted plants or cut rhizomes to disperse and re-establish along stream courses.



Habitat: It grows best in sunny, wetland habitats, but can tolerate the partial shade of adjacent wooded wetlands. It thrives during prolonged periods of flooding, and can develop mat-like root systems suspended in water.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is banned in Massachusetts. Connecticut reports it to be potentially invasive and banned. It also occurs in Canada.

Ecological Impacts: It has the ability to form large, dense mono-specific stands that are capable of crowding out native wetland vegetation. It can reduce plant species diversity. Being a poor food source and a poor nesting substrate for wetland wildlife, it has a potential to negatively affect wetland habitat dynamics. Dense stands may restrict access to waterways, impede water flow, cause flooding, and accelerate silt build up.

Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Manual removal works best with small plants. Dig up, removing all pieces of the root to prevent re-sprouting; use black plastic on smaller stands, use plastic gallon milk jugs, filled with water from a nearby source, to hold the plastic down. Black plastic works best during the heat of summer, in the absence of standing water. Let the plastic work for at least 5 or 6 weeks. Since this plant grows in water during much of the growing season, cutting is often ineffective.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate in summer. Follow label and state requirements.

References: <http://plants.usda.gov>, <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/alert/alrtglyc.html>, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England- <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/browsing.cfm?descriptionid=54>, www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/RPIO-4ZV7D8?open, www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=GLYMAX