

What are Phragmites?

Phragmites australis, the **common reed**, is a large perennial grass. It forms extensive stands (known as reed beds), which may be as much as a square kilometer or more in extent. Where conditions are suitable, it can spread at 5 metres or more per year by horizontal runners, which puts down roots at regular intervals. It can grow in damp ground, in standing water (up to a meter or so deep), or even as a floating mat. The erect stems grow to 2 - 6 metres tall, with the tallest plants growing in areas with hot summers and fertile growing conditions. The leaves are long for a grass, 20 - 50 centimetres and 2 - 3 centimetres broad. The flowers are produced in late summer in a dense, dark purple panicle, about 20 - 50 cm long. Later, the numerous long, narrow, sharp pointed spikelets appear greyer due to the growth of long, silky hairs.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phragmites>

Phragmites have become major invaders of the environment. The municipality of Bois des Filion had serious problems controlling phragmites. The municipality opted for Biobarrier on a test site to achieve their objective.

Typar, the manufacturer of Biobarrier, offered the Biobarrier membrane for the study.

Test Site

Phragmites were removed from the surface along with most of the root system to a depth of 6" to 12".



Placing the Biobarrier membrane.



Soil was used to cover the Biobarrier membrane.



Trees were then planted.



Biobarrier's performance is guaranteed by the manufacturer for 15 years, but you can expect it to last for 25 and even 30 years!