

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 meters 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 meters tall, with the tallest plants growing in areas with hot summers and fertile growing conditions. The leaves are long for a grass, 20 - 50 centimeters and 2 - 3 centimeters 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>



Image Courtesy:
[The Ontario Phragmites Working Group](#)

The municipality of Joliette, QC was receiving numerous complaints from citizens that Phragmite plants were growing on their property. The municipality opted to install Typar Biobarrier.

Typar Biobarrier has been in use for over 40 years to control the growth of Phragmites.

A one-meter deep trench was dug and Typar Biobarrier was set in place. It was then covered with the excess dirt.



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