|  |
| --- |
| Logo AGES |
| Common reed |
|  |  |
| 04.07.2025 12:46 Uhr |

**Common
reed**

**Phragmites
australis
[Cav.]
Trin.
ex
Steud.**

Last
change:
10.09.2024

**Profile**

Reed
canary
grass
occurs
only
occasionally
in
fields,
but
it
can
become
a
persistent,
troublesome
weed
with
high
levels
of
cover.

**Appearance**

The
species
is
a
rhizome
geophyte.
The
above-ground,
annual,
0.8-1.5
cm
thick
culms
grow
very
quickly
in
height
(2
to
4
m).
The
leaf
blades
appear
gray-green.
The
reed
is
a
panicle
grass
and
the
inflorescence
can
grow
up
to
40
centimeters
long.

**Distribution**

The
natural
habitat
of
the
reed
is
standing
waters,
but
also
wet
meadows
and
riparian
forests.
The
species
is
very
adaptable
and
occurs
on
road
embankments,
in
pavement
cracks
(!)
or
along
railroad
lines
and
even
in
fields.
Essentially
all
crops
such
as
corn,
soybean,
sugar
beet
and
cereals
are
affected.
Former
meadows
with
reed
beds
in
wetlands
that
have
been
converted
to
cropland
are,
of
course,
particularly
affected.
Once
reed
becomes
established,
it
also
colonizes
drier
sites
such
as
hillsides.

**Spread**

Local
spread
of
reed
is
based
on
the
vegetative
growth
of
rhizomes.
Thus,
the
plant
often
grows
from
the
edges
into
the
fields.
In
addition,
reed
can
spread
through
prostrate
culms
rooting
at
nodes.
Reed
is
most
likely
carried
from
field
to
field
via
rhizome
fragments.
The
role
of
seeds
in
colonizing
cropland
is
difficult
to
assess.

**Economic
importance**

The
species
reaches
heights
of
2
-
4
m
on
average
and
forms
extensive,
extremely
dense
stands,
but
mostly
only
partial
areas
of
a
field
are
affected.
The
competitive
effect
is
enormous
and
therefore
corresponding
yield
losses
are
to
be
expected.



Das
Schilfrohr
in
Mais



Das
Schilfrohr
in
Sojabohne



Das
Schilfrohr
in
Zuckerrüben

**Prevention
and
control**

Control
of
reed
canary
is
very
difficult
due
to
its
low-lying
rhizomes
and
high
regenerative
capacity.
The
choice
of
measures
is
limited
and
a
sustainable
success
is
not
always
given.

* Mechanical
control
can
be
done
on
the
stubble
or
after
harvest.
The
effect
of
repeated
mechanical
treatment
measures
is
based
on
disruption
of
rhizome
growth
together
with
depletion
of
nutrient
reserves
and,
above
all,
by
working
the
rhizomes
out
to
the
soil
surface
with
subsequent
drying.
* The
choice
of
suitable
herbicides
is
very
limited.
The
use
of
glyphosate-containing
pesticides
on
the
stubble
so
far
provides
the
most
consistent
and
also
the
longest
lasting
control
of
reed
canary
with
suppression
also
in
the
following
year.

**Specialized
information**

**Publications**

Follak,
S.,
2021.
problems
with
reeds
in
field
crops.
The
Plant
Physician
74(11-12),
26-27.

**Services**

[Plant
Health
Services](en/plant/plant-health/plant-health-information)