How to Identify Phragmites in Northern Michigan

In Northern Michigan, there are two varieties of *Phragmites australis*, a native variety and a non-native, invasive variety. Native Phragmites is part of a well-balanced aquatic ecosystem. Invasive Phragmites crowds out native plants, alters hydrology, degrades wildlife habitat, and increases fire potential. Learning to distinguish the two types will help ensure control efforts are targeted specifically at invasive Phragmites.

**Other Key Characteristics:**

- Invasive Phragmites stands tend to be more dense than native Phragmites stands.
- Invasive Phragmites tends to be taller than native Phragmites. Invasive stands can grow up to 15 feet tall, while native stands are often not more than 8 feet tall.

Additional identifying characteristics can be found at Cornell University’s InvasivePlants.net
http://www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/morphology.asp

Please contact your local natural resources agency or other natural resource professional for questions or to confirm identification.