

**INVASIVE**



# Phalaris arundinacea

## reed canarygrass

Family	Poaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FACW	CoC	-5

### DESCRIPTION

This invasive native grass often forms expansive, dense colonies from long rhizomes (underground stems). Stems (1 to 1.5 m tall) are bright green, smooth, unbranched, erect to sprawling, and the entire plant is a bleached tan in late season. Sheaths are thin, hairless and have translucent edges with a prominent yellow collar. Nodes are smooth. Leaves (10 to 30 cm long) are alternate, bending, flat and hairless with rough margins.



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### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through July. Flower heads (7 to 25 cm long) are at the stem tips, branching and pyramid-shaped at flowering then becoming closer (appressed) to the stalk at maturity. Spikelets are purple tinged, flattened, egg-shaped with pointed tips but lacking bristles (awns). Fruits are brown grains, flattened and broadest near the tip with a short beak.



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### HABITAT

Stream banks, pond edges, floodplain forests, swamps, marshes, wet meadows and ditches.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Sorghum halepense*, Johnson grass, is taller (stems to 3 m, leaves to 90 cm); leaves have distinctive white mid-rib and are often purple splotched, and spikelets, in pairs with a few bristles (awns), are on larger branched pyramid-like flower heads (10 to 50 cm).



*Sorghum halepense*

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