

HIPP Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership

Invasive Out



Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Common Reed

Phragmites australis

- Designated by the State of Maine as “Severely Invasive”
- Outcompetes native plants
- Impacts wildlife and the environment: Saltmarsh Sparrow, for example, breeds only in saltmarshes and cannot thrive in phragmites. Their presence or absence helps us understand if the ecosystem is healthy.
- Alters water flow and drainage patterns with dense growth, hence negatively impacting aquatic ecosystems
- Inhibits growth of other plants and can alter the soil conditions
- Must be controlled early or it’ll be impossible to control later.

Native In



Photo Credit: Donna Bollenbach iStock

Common Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

- Grows to 10’, can be a hedge or planted solo, good for erosion control
- Has beautiful compound leaves
- Is excellent nesting site for bees and songbirds
- Is beneficial host for many moths that feed songbirds
- Boasts clusters of white flowers in June and July
- Forms dark purple berries late summer, loved by birds and used for jellies and juice.

Resources and other native-to-Maine choices

- *Swida sericea*: Red-twigged dogwood (<https://mainenativeplants.org/plant/red-twig-dogwood/>)
- *Salix discolor*: Pussy willow (<https://mainenativeplants.org/plant/pussy-willow/>)
- *Spiraea alba*: White meadowsweet (<https://mainenativeplants.org/plant/meadowsweet/>)

Notes:

- While *Sorghastrum nutans*, Indian grass, is native to North America, it grows to 6’ and is very aggressive; beware.
- Members of the *Miscanthus* family are popular, tall non-native grasses that spread too aggressively and should be avoided.