

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **REED MANNA GRASS**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Glyceria maxima*

FAMILY: *Poaceae*

ORIGIN: Temperate Europe and Asia

US INTRODUCTION: May have been introduced as a forage species

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Ornamental garden plantings
- Waterfowl

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Perennial, rhizomatous grass grows from 1.6 - 8.2 feet tall, spreads vegetatively and by seed
- Stem unbranched
- Leaves flat, 7 or more on stem, 8.6 - 11.4 inches long and 0.3 - 0.8 inches wide, shallowly grooved with prominent midribs. Leaf sheath closed for most of length
- Flowering portion of plant (inflorescence) open with many branches (panicle), branches with short, stiff hairs
- Inflorescence strongly drooping at maturity with 50 + flattened (laterally compressed) spikelets. Spikelets 0.24 (0.39) inches long, egg-shaped with 4 - 10 minute flowers
- Threatens wetlands and riparian areas



D. Maurer

Population in Lake County, Illinois



D. Maurer

Population



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Stem base and roots



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Stem and leaves

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Fowl manna grass, *G. striata*, very common, shorter (1.64 - 4.0 feet tall). Floating manna grass, *G. septentrionalis* (common) and *G. borealis* (very rare), spikelets linear, 0.39 inches or longer. Pale manna grass, *G. pallida*, leaf sheaths open, split to base. rattlesnake grass, *G. canadensis*, and reed manna grass (*G. grandis*), leaves on stem 3 - 6, leaf sheaths smooth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

USDA Plants Database.

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=glma3>

Centre for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

<http://www.invasive.org/gist/alert/alrtglyc.html>

USGS Aquatic Nonindigenous Species.

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1120>



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Giant manna grass inflorescence strongly drooping at maturity