

## **Portsmouth Wetlands Board *Phragmites* Eradication Policy**

Phragmites is a jurisdictional tidal wetlands plant when it is located within 1 ½ times the mean tide range above mean low water. Removal of Phragmites shall be performed according to the following adopted policy.

### **Level One (Cutting, ONLY) – The Issuance of a Staff Clearance Requires Adherence to the Following:**

1. The person requesting the clearance must either be the property owner or obtain written permission from the property owner.
2. Planning Staff shall perform a site visit to the property to confirm if the plants to be cut are *Phragmites*.
3. Only use hand-held tools (weed eater, garden shears, etc.).
4. Do not cut down so far as to disturb the soil. There should be stalk left after cutting that is visible above ground.
5. Do not use chemicals or burning methods on the plants.
6. Remove cut stalks from the wetlands area after cutting.
7. The staff clearance is NOT transferable to a future property owner/occupant. A new clearance must be obtained by the new owner/occupant.
8. The issued clearance shall expire after two years and may be renewed.
9. The issuance of the *Phragmites* Eradication Clearance does not permit any other wetland vegetation or upland vegetation to be cut. Cutting of such vegetation may result in the issuance of a violation and the assessment of a subsequent fine.

### **Level Two (Herbicide Application, Includes Necessary Cutting) The Issuance of a Staff Clearance Requires Adherence to the Following:**

1. The person requesting the clearance must either be the property owner or obtain written permission from the property owner.
2. Planning Staff shall perform a site visit to the property to confirm if the plants to be cut are *Phragmites*.
3. Only herbicides and surfactants specified for aquatic use may be utilized; the most common active ingredient is glyphosate. Aquatic formulations of glyphosate include Rodeo ®, AquaNeat ®, and Glypro ®, among others. Check the label of the product and follow the specific guidance. Roundup ® is not authorized for use.
4. The staff clearance is NOT transferable to a future property owner/occupant. A new clearance may be obtained by the new owner/occupant.
5. The issued clearance shall expire after two years and may be renewed.
6. The issuance of the *Phragmites* Eradication Clearance does not permit any other wetland vegetation or upland vegetation to be cut. Cutting of such vegetation may result in the issuance of a violation and the assessment of a subsequent fine.

**PLEASE REQUEST STAFF GUIDANCE IF YOU DESIRE TO REPLACE THE PHRAGMITES AREA WITH OTHER VEGETATION AND/OR YOU DESIRE TO POTENTIALLY CHANGE THE CONTOUR/ELEVATION OF A FORMER PHRAGMITES AREA.**