

Saginaw Bay Phragmites Control and Restoration Demonstration Project

A photograph showing a dense field of Phragmites reeds. The reeds are tall and have long, narrow green leaves. Many of the reeds have brown, feathery seed heads. In the foreground, there is a rocky shoreline with several large, light-colored rocks. The background is a flat, open field under a clear sky.

Julie Sims
MDEQ, Water Bureau

SBCI Regional Update Meeting
Bay City, MI
June 5, 2009

Presentation Overview

- Background on Invasive Phragmites
- Update on Demonstration Project
- Results and Findings
- Next Steps

Understanding Phragmites

- *The aggressive non native variety of Phragmites, or common reed, is a wetland plant that is present in nearly all U.S. states*
- Phragmites is a perennial, warm season grass that can grow in dense stands, reach heights of 15 + feet and is long living.
- Phragmites is capable of reproduction by seeds, but primarily does so asexually by rhizomes.



The Problem

- Threatens coastal and interior wetlands, which are Michigan's most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems
- Displaces desirable native plant species
- Reduction of wildlife habitat diversity
- Restriction of shoreline views
- Creation of potentially serious fire hazard

Successful Phragmites Control

- Understand phragmites life cycle
- Become familiar with herbicide types and application methods
- Determine best sequence for secondary treatments
 - Mechanical
 - Burning
 - Flooding
 - Repeated herbicide treatments
- Follow up with additional herbicide treatments as necessary

SBCI Demonstration Project

- Partners

- DEQ's Land and Water Management Division, Office of the Great Lakes, and Water Bureau
- DNR
- Ducks Unlimited

- Funding

- EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- BASF
- Cygnet Enterprises

Saginaw Bay Demonstration Project

This project will attempt to eliminate or significantly reduce Phragmites in coastal shoreline locations to demonstrate to landowners:

- effectiveness of the chemical treatment
- option of mowing
- benefit of treating early
- benefits of controlling invasive phragmites in coastal wetlands

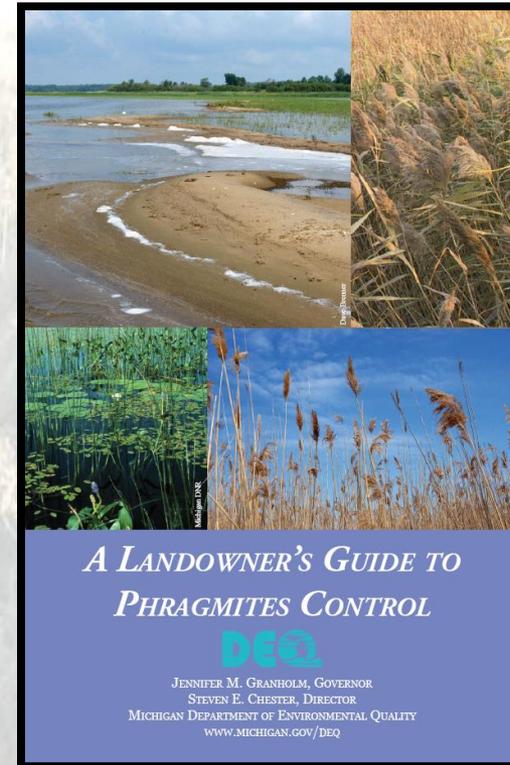
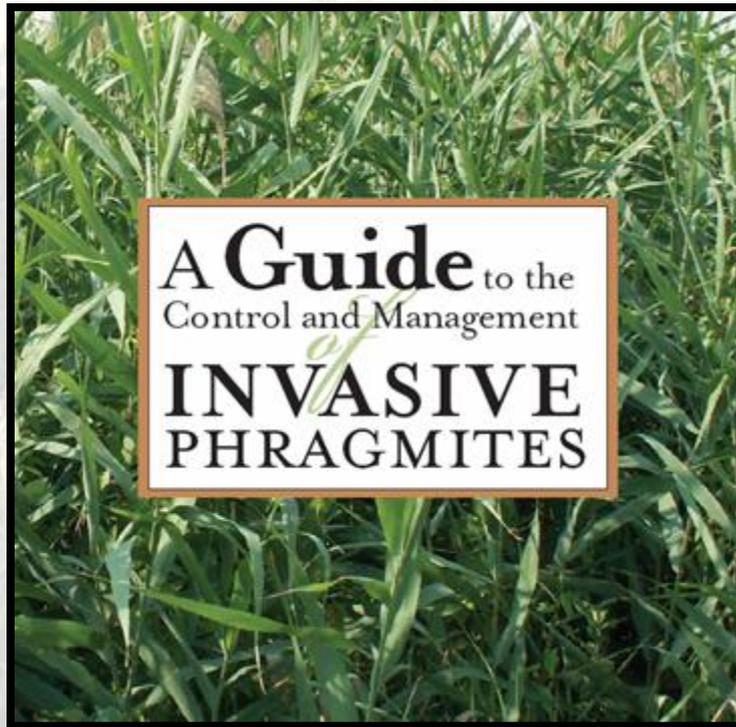
Phragmites Management

- **Step 1:** Chemical control - systemic herbicides, timing, dosage, techniques
- **Step 2:** Follow-up chemical treatment, mechanical, prescribed burning, flooding
- **Step 3:** Monitor, repeat! (long-term commitment)

What Have We Been Up To?

- Phragmites stakeholder workgroup
- Develop information materials
- Implement treatment at the demonstration project site
- Evaluate control activities
- Media event

Available Resources to Assist Property Owners & Resource Managers



www.michigan.gov/deqaquaticinvasives

Interpretive Signage

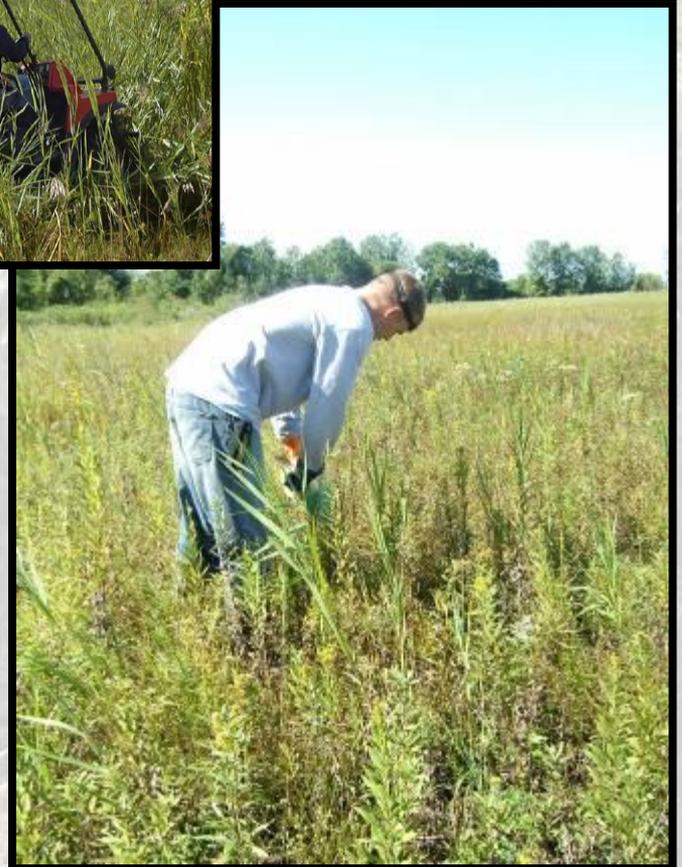




Treatment Methods



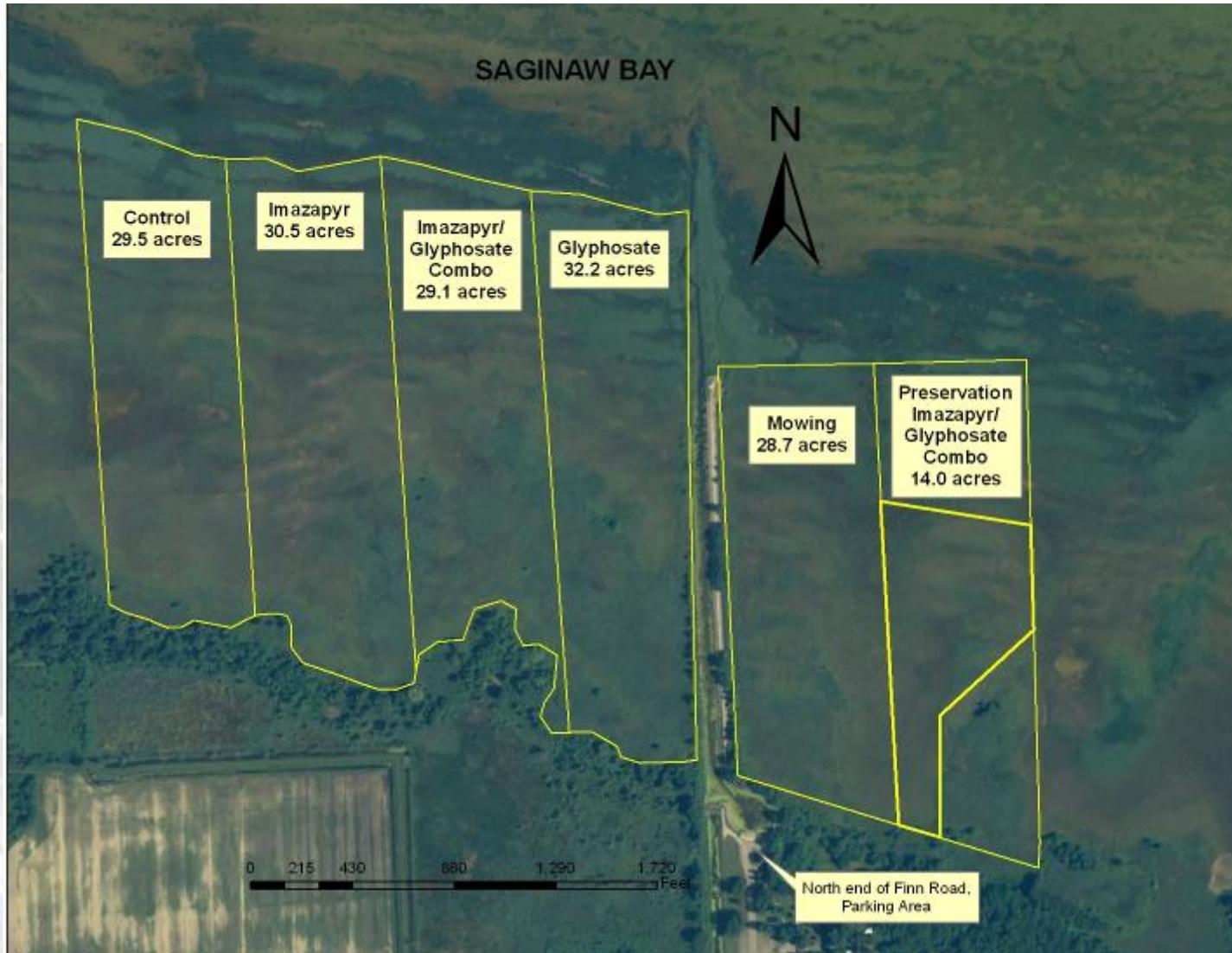
Treatment Methods



Treatment Methods



Treatment Plots



Mowing plot



Photo monitoring Sept 2007



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Vegetation monitoring- August 2008

Glyphosate Plot



Photo monitoring Sept 2007



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Vegetation monitoring- August 2008

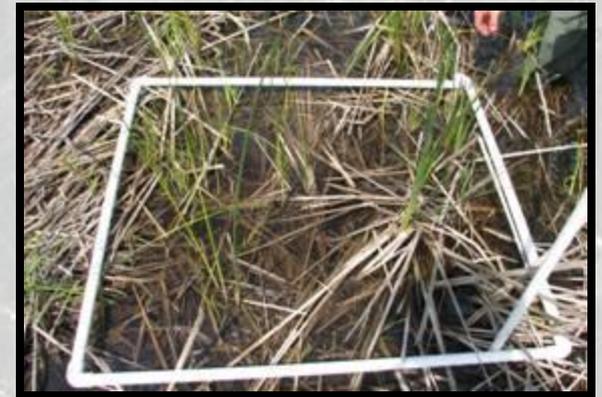
Combo Plot



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Vegetation monitoring- August 2008

Imazapyr Plot



Photo monitoring Sept 2007



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Vegetation monitoring- August 2008

Control Plot



Photo monitoring Sept 2007



Photo monitoring Sept 2008



Vegetation monitoring- August 2008

Questions and Comments

Julie Sims

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

simsj@michigan.gov

(517) 373-2732

