

SHORELINE

Common Reed



- Provides erosion control at the waterline on ponds and watershed dams
- Is easily established from rhizomes
- Is a long-lived perennial

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In cooperation with Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

SHORELINE

Common Reed

'Shoreline' common reed (*Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.) was recently released by the Soil Conservation Service and The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Shoreline was collected from a railroad right-of-way at Lawrence, Texas, in 1970.

Description

Shoreline common reed is a native perennial grass with short, thick rhizomes. Culms are 3 to 11 feet tall. Stolons usually spread rapidly near the waterline where plantings are established. Leaves are ½ to 2 inches wide. The seed head is a large often tawny or purple tinged terminal plume, with many branches and many flowers.

Adaptation

Shoreline is adapted to any part of Texas for planting at the waterline of farm ponds and watershed dams. The waterline must be stable to assure stand establishment. Shoreline is best adapted to areas receiving 30 inches or more annual precipitation. It should be adapted to moist sites with slight salinity; however, this has not been verified by research.

Uses

Shoreline can be used to prevent wave action erosion at the waterline of earthen dams.

Establishment

On new sites, a firm, weed-free seedbed should be prepared and tilled to a depth of 4 inches. One to one and one-half rhizomes (12 to 18 inches long) should be planted per foot of row in trenches 4 to 6 inches deep. A minimum of

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three rows should be planted, 40 inches apart, beginning at the waterline and continuing up the slope. The furrow should be filled immediately and packed by hand or with a tractor tire. Two gallons of water per foot of row should be applied if the soil is not moist at planting.

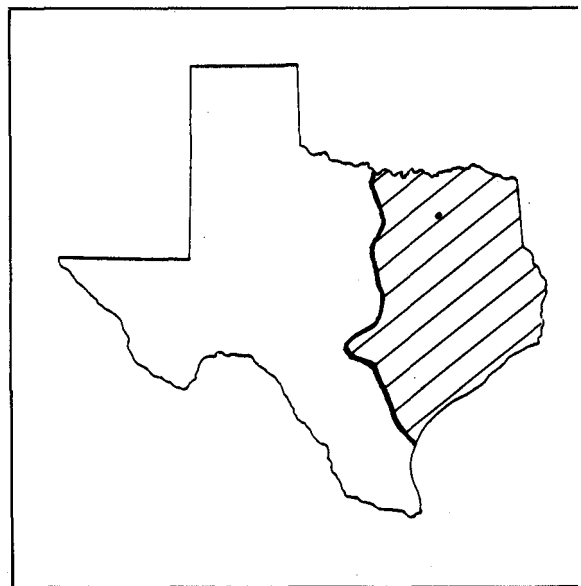
Fifty pounds per acre of nitrogen and of phosphorus (P_2O_5) should be applied during seedbed preparation. The site should be kept moist without continuous inundation through management of the pool level.

On old dams, establishment can be obtained by digging post holes 8 inches apart and 6 inches deep in rows 2 feet apart. One horizontal and three vertical rhizomes should be planted per hole, and the hole refilled, tamped, and watered. A minimum of three rows should be planted beginning at the waterline.

Livestock must be excluded from all planting sites to obtain successful establishment.

Source of Material

Foundation quality rhizomes are available from the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials



• Origin
▨ Primary area of adaptation



Planting rhizomes

Center at Knox City to qualified growers who wish to establish production fields. Production fields should be planted in rows on sandy soils that are relatively weed-free. Rhizomes in production fields can be dug after 1 year's growth, but are more productive when allowed to grow 2 years. Production of Shoreline rhizomes at the Plant Materials Center has been 75,000 to 100,000 per acre per year. Other production and rhizome harvest information is available from the Soil Conservation Plant Materials Center, Route 1, Box 155, Knox City, Texas 79529.

For additional information, contact
Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 648
Temple, Texas 76501

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