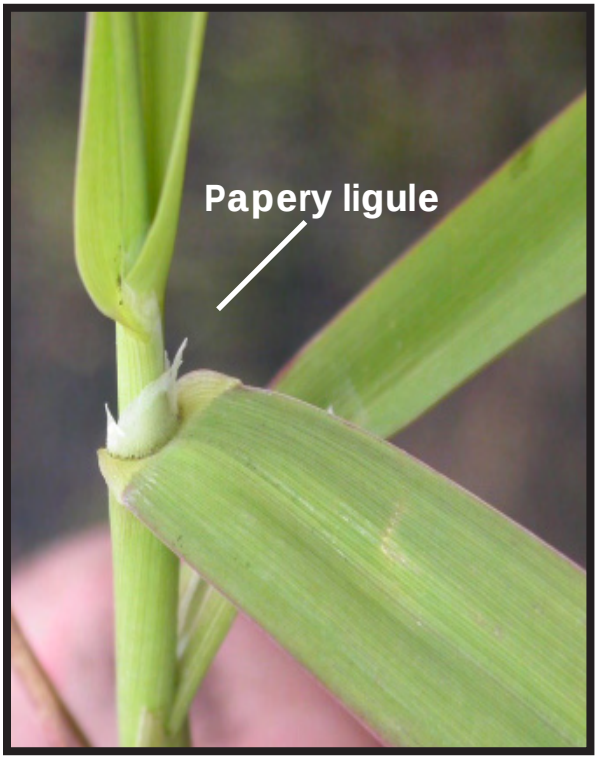
Reed canary grass
Phalaris arundinacea

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW+
Non-native Invasive



Leaves: Flat, to 1 in. wide and to 10 in. long, tapering to end. Clear papery ligule at base of leaf. Auricles absent.

Stems: Erect, smooth, up to 6 ft tall.

Flowers and fruit: Numerous 1 flowered spikelets. Panicle opens during flowering, then closes to become spike-like. Dense flower heads.

Plant communities: Wet meadows, marshes, streams, ditches, disturbed areas, native prairie.

Comments: Perennial cool season grass. Valued for forage, but also a very aggressive invader spreading by rhizome and seed. Forms dense, monotypic colonies and is difficult to eradicate. Flower panicle resembles Canada bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), but lacks tufts of hairs in spikelets. Native less aggressive varieties of *Phalaris arundinacea* may exist in Minnesota, but most populations are non-native varieties.