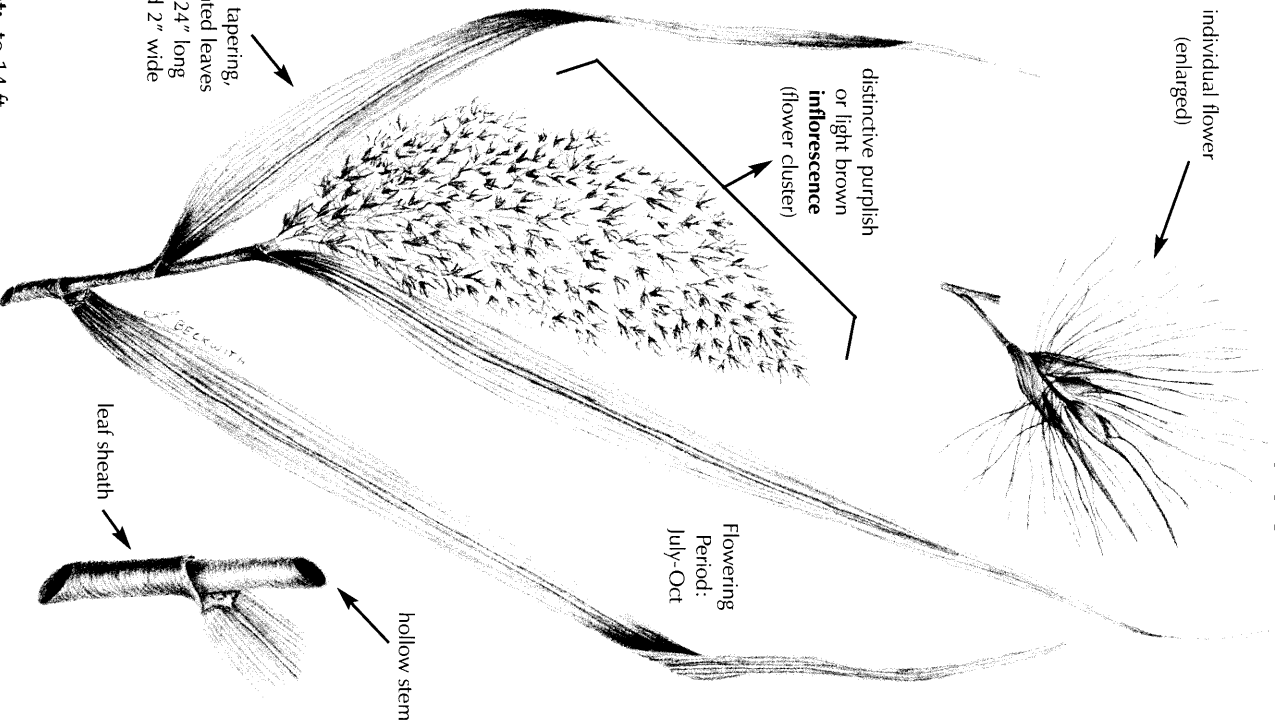


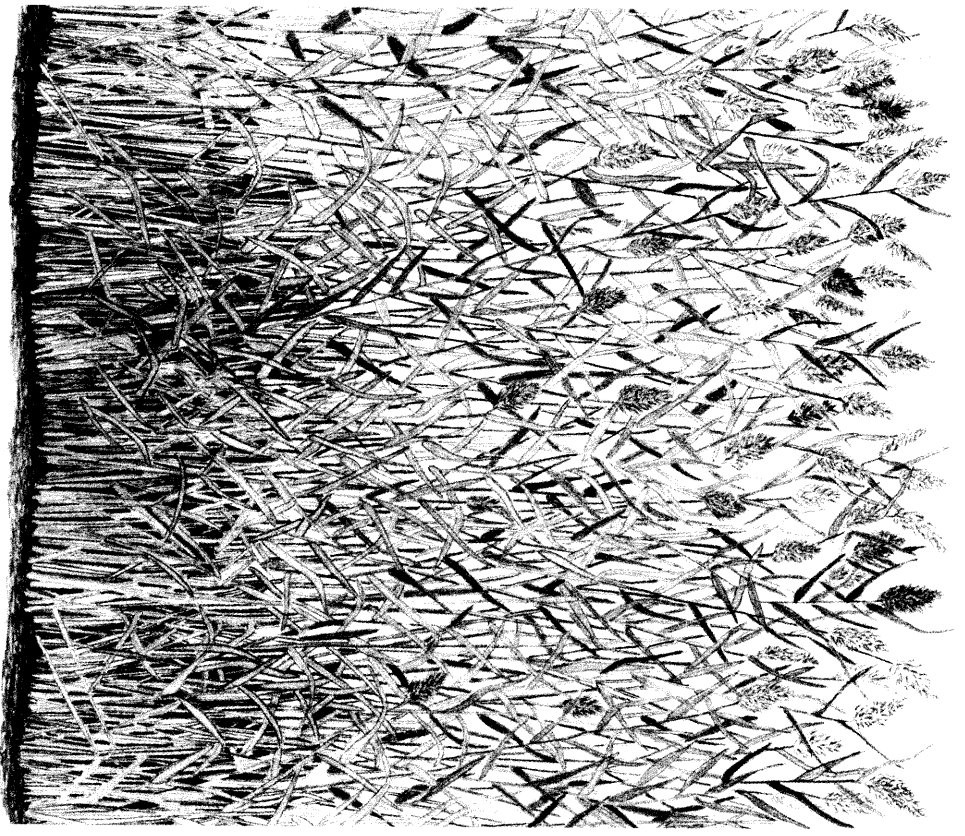
Common Reed



Flowering
Period:
July-Oct

Height: to 14 ft

Habitat: tidal fresh and brackish marshes and upper edges of salt marshes, inland marshes, ditches, and disturbed areas



Technical Name: *Phragmites australis*

Common Name: Common Reed

Family Name: Poaceae (formerly Graminae)

Along the tidal Hudson River and in many other parts of the nation common reed is considered an undesirable plant because of the large and rapidly expanding monotypic (single species) stands it can produce. These tall, dense stands result in an apparent loss of species diversity of both plants and animals. Research conducted at Reserve sites has documented Phragmites' rapid replacement of other tidal wetland plant communities in brackish and freshwater tidal portions of the Hudson Estuary. Such rapid expansion of the plant is occurring throughout most tidal wetland systems in the Northeast as well. As of this time, the scientific community still has not agreed upon a cause for this expansion.