

Glyceria maxima Tall manna grass, reed manna grass, reed sweetgrass

Semi-aquatic, perennial grass with unbranched stems that get up to 8' tall. Reddish tint on the lower parts of the stems.

Leaves: Blades are flat or slightly folded and ¾" wide and 8-12" long. Leaf blades are shallowly grooved, have a prominent mid-rib and leaf margins have stiff short hairs. Leaf sheaths are rough and have a red-brown band at junction with leaf. Ligules are 0.2" long.

Flowers: The inflorescence is an open panicle 6-12" long with branches that have short stiff hairs. Spikelets are 0.2-0.3" long with florets that are tinged greenish-purple. Blooms June-August

Fruits & seeds: Seeds are small, smooth, dark brown, and are 0.07" long and ovoid in shape. They also have a deep, narrow central furrow.

Roots: Rhizomes

Similar species: American mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*) is typically up to 4.5' tall and has a nodding inflorescence with shorter spikelets.

Ecological threat

- Prefers wetlands where it can form monospecific stands that are dense and crowds out native vegetation.
- Has a negative effect on wetlands due to its poor suitability for nesting and as a poor food source.
- Sold as an ornamental in a variegated variety.
- Young shoots can cause cyanide poisoning in cattle if used as forage.

Control methods

Mechanical
If feasible, black plastic can be used to smother the infested area; cutting plants several times throughout the year can also be effective at limiting root reserves but may take a long time to kill the grass. Flooding can also be an effective method when grass is cut.
Chemical
3 % solution of glyphosate in early and late summer; follow up for several years.

Links for more information

UW-Stevens Point Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium:

<http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=GLYMAX>

Invasive.org: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=20253>

PLANTS Profile: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=GLMA3>

Sources:

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England – Reed mannagrass. <http://nbiin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specieId=54>

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board – Reed Sweetgrass Fact Sheet. http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/Brochures/Reed_sweetgrass_fact_sheet.pdf

The Nature Conservancy: The Global Invasive Species Team Weed Alert! *Glyceria maxima*. Last updated January 2005. <http://www.invasive.org/gist/alert/alrtglyc.html>



<http://www.habitas.org.uk/flora/photo.asp?item=2507d>



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
<http://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5272010>