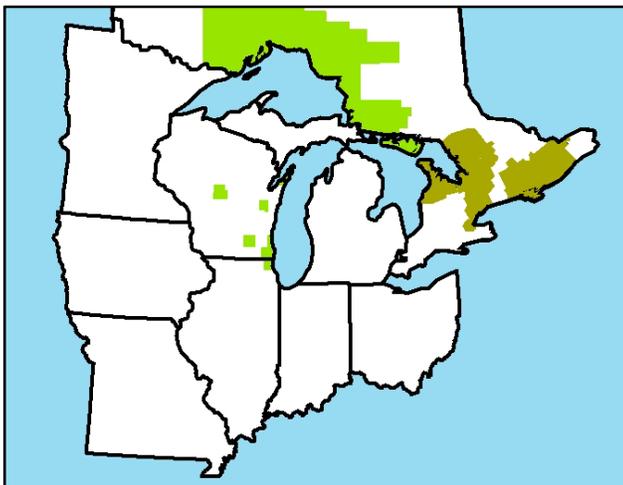


# REED MANNA GRASS

## *Glyceria maxima*

**Description:** Reed manna grass is an emergent, perennial grass that grows 1.5-8 feet tall. It has single, unbranched stems. Leaves are flat, 9-12 inches long and 0.3-0.8 inches wide with prominent midribs. The leaf sheaths are closed for most of their length, are rough in texture, and have a reddish-brown band at the leaf junction. Leaf margins have stiff, short hairs. Flowers form in 6-12 inch open panicles. Panicles also have stiff, short hairs, similar to the leaf margins. At maturity, panicles strongly droop, and have 50 flattened, elliptical spikelets, each with 4-10 minute flowers. Tiny seeds (0.07 inches long) are ovoid in shape and smooth in texture. Though it does produce viable seed, reed manna grass primarily spreads through its rhizomes.



Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Not Known        | Isolated   |
| Locally Abundant | Widespread |

**Ecological threat:** Reed manna grass invades wetlands, including swamps, lakes, ponds, slow-moving rivers, ditches, and wet pastures. It can form dense, monospecific stands that displace native wetland vegetation. Because reed manna grass provides poor food and nesting habitat, it has the potential to negatively impact wetland wildlife. Young grass shoots can cause cyanide poisoning in cattle if used as forage.

Reed manna grass is sold in the **aquatic plant trade**.

**Native Range:** Northern Eurasia

**Current North American Range:** Reed manna grass is primarily found in Ontario, but also in Newfoundland, British Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts.

For up-to-date **management options**, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/TallMannaGrass.html>.

Photo credits: Left - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org; Middle & Right - Debbie Maurer, Lake County Forest Preserve District

**Early detection and rapid response can help stop the spread!**