



# Glyceria maxima: A Recent Wetland/Riparian Invader

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*Glyceria maxima* (Reed manna grass) is a perennial rhizomatous grass. It is known to invade wetlands, including swamps, ditches, wet pastures, and lakes, ponds, slow-moving rivers and creeks where it forms monospecific stands that are capable of crowding out native vegetation and animals.

## NR 40 Classification

It currently is split-classified under NR40, being restricted (orange) in SE and prohibited elsewhere (red). Nationally, *G. maxima*'s distribution is limited to Wisconsin, Illinois, two East coast states, Alaska & Washington. Of limited spread in WI, we hope to both reduce its spread west and eliminate SE stands where possible.

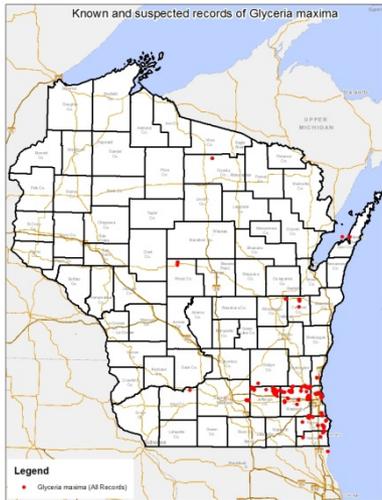


## WDNR Project: Identify and control populations

The Wisconsin DNR has received a grant to identify and control *G. maxima* populations and it needs your help to find them! Most populations are found in Southeast Wisconsin, between Milwaukee and Madison.

With some found in Calumet, Wood, Door, and Oneida Counties.

Outreach to resource users and initial control efforts are critical, and planned for 2016. The latter may experiment with several control strategies, including herbicides and perhaps mechanical removal.



## Glyceria Identification

The *Glyceria* genus is typically distinguished by having closed leaf sheaths, angular shiny blades, upper glumes with 1 vein, conspicuous parallel veins on lemmas.

## Glyceria maxima vs. Glyceria grandis:

These two species are commonly confused with each other. Three characters can be used to distinguish these species.

| Characteristic      | <i>Glyceria maxima</i> * | <i>Glyceria grandis</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Leaf blade width    | 8-18 mm                  | 6-12 mm                 |
| Leaf sheath texture | Scaberulous*             | Smooth                  |
| Upper glume length  | 2.5-4 mm                 | 1.5-2.5 mm              |

\*"maxima" refers to greatest height, leaf & glume size, etc., but the invasive sheaths also have a sticky feel\* while those of *G. grandis* are smooth.

## Common visual characteristics of *G. maxima*

Broad, stiff branched panicle



Photo credits: Leslie J Merhoff, Bugwood.org

Angular bend in leaf sheaths



Photo credits: Leslie J Merhoff, Bugwood.org

## Glyceria maxima in the landscape

*Glyceria maxima* creates large monotypic populations in wetlands. *G. maxima* grows and collapses, smothering other plants.



Calumet Co.

Photo credits: Diane Schauer

*Glyceria maxima* can be found growing in/along streams, often growing bank to bank when shallow.



Jefferson Co.

Photo credit: Jason Granberg

It can also detach and float downstream!



**If you suspect this species, let WDNR know. Email: [Jason.Granberg@Wisconsin.Gov](mailto:Jason.Granberg@Wisconsin.Gov) [Brock.Woods@Wisconsin.Gov](mailto:Brock.Woods@Wisconsin.Gov); 608-266-2554**