

Invasive Vegetation Control

Mentor Marsh, Mentor, Ohio



Davey Resource Group used specialized equipment to treat more than 13 miles of *Phragmites australis* along the shorelines of Mentor Marsh.



Mentor Marsh, a state nature preserve managed by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, is located in Mentor, Ohio, just off the Lake Erie shore. The marsh comprises over 900 acres of freshwater emergent wetland and swamp forest habitat. Over many years, the marsh had become overrun with *Phragmites australis* (common reed).

Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG) was part of a team effort coordinated by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to control this dense, invasive plant colony and to plant native vegetation in treated areas in order to restore the marsh to its original plant community.

The scope of work included an aerial herbicide application on several hundred acres of invasive plants in the middle of the marsh. After the application, DRG led a major ground effort to eradicate the invasive common reed plants from the perimeter.

When the project was completed, DRG treated nearly 150 acres of common reed along the edge of the marsh. Nearly 69,000 linear feet, or over 13 miles, of shoreline were treated. The majority of the work was accomplished over a two-year period.

The herbicide used to eradicate the common reed was a glyphosate-based product approved by USEPA for aquatic use. DRG used a Marsh Master (a fully-amphibious utility vehicle) and an Argo utility vehicle, both of which are equipped with high-volume spraying equipment. Davey Resource Group biologists also used low-volume backpack spray units to treat areas with sensitive, desirable vegetation. DRG mapped the entire treatment area using GPS field measurement equipment.