

CLAY TOWNSHIP PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2011

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Program is to assist property owners in understanding and implementing effective Phragmites control treatments. This year's program has various components, including surveying the status of Phragmites within the community, establishing priority treatment areas for 2011, communicating with and educating property owners, providing permit and treatment assistance, exploring funding opportunities and further developing a program of volunteers to assist others with Phragmites control. Exactly how many of the proposed activities we can accomplish this year will depend on available funding, the number of property owners requesting assistance and joining the program and the number of volunteers we can enlist. Here are some of the details of components of the plan which will be available to Clay Township property owners.

Communications - To keep the property owners up-to-date on activities and services of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory Board, a webpage is available at www.ClayTownship.org/Phragmites. If you have any questions, please contact the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory Board at 810-519-2985.

Workshops on Phragmites Management – In 2011 Phragmites Management Workshops will be offered in June and August. The dates, times and locations will be posted on the website. All are welcome to attend. Clay Township property owners can register by calling the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory Board at 810-519-2985 or emailing their name, address, phone and email address to Bob@StewartFarm.org.

Qualified Contractors – In order to assist property owners with the procurement of qualified contractors for spraying or mowing Phragmites the Township maintains a list of such contractors. It is available on the website or for pick up at the Township Hall.

The following additional services are available to property owners who join the Clay Township Phragmites Management Program 2011 as a participant:*

On-Site Consultation – A volunteer can meet you at your property to discuss your specific problems with Phragmites management on your property.

Group Permits for Spraying and Mowing - To simplify the process of obtaining the necessary permits for spraying and mowing Phragmites on your property, Clay Township is applying for group permits from appropriate agencies. To be included in the permits you must apply to be in the program by June 6, 2011. You will be notified by means of an approval letter from Clay Township when permits including your property are obtained. If you wish to burn Phragmites please contact the Clay Township Fire Department regarding permit requirements.

Aerial Spraying Contractor Procurement Assistance – In cases where spraying by helicopter would be most effective and economical, the Township assists in the coordination of property owners and contractors.

Treatment Chemicals at Special Prices - To save the program participants money in the self-treatment of their Phragmites, the Township will be purchasing the appropriate chemicals at special government rates and making them available at lower costs than generally available to the public. Program participants can place their order for chemicals by mail or in person at the Clay Township Treasurer's office. Order deadline is August 22, 2011. Pick-up dates, times and locations for chemicals will be posted on the website. The chemical order form will be available on the website or for pick up at the Clay Township Treasurer's office after June 6, 2011.

**To become a participant in the Clay Township Phragmites Management Program 2011, you must apply to the Township, donate \$25 and you or your representative must attend or have attended one of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Workshops in 2010 or 2011. In 2010, the Township paid over \$2,000 for permits. Your donations were very important in helping defray those costs. In addition, donations allow us to demonstrate in our grant applications local support for the program. The application to participate in this program is available online at www.ClayTownship.org/Phragmites or in person at the Clay Township Treasurer's office. Property owners in nearby communities may join to qualify to purchase chemicals, however, only properties in Clay Township and Algonac are eligible for on-site consultation and for inclusion in the Township-wide permits.*

Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board, PO Box 429 Algonac, MI 48001, 810-519-2985, www.ClayTownship.org/Phragmites