

DITCH STABILIZATION WITH SHORELINE COMMON REED¹

by
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Abstract: 'Shoreline' common reed (*Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin, ex Steud.) has been utilized for several years by Sabine Mining Company for stabilizing drainage ditch banks. This plant is a native perennial grass with short, thick rhizomes. Culms are 3 to 11 feet tall. Stolons usually spread rapidly near standing water where plantings are established. The leaves of this plant are ½ to 2 inches wide. The seed head is a large often tawny of purple tinged terminal plume, with many branches and many flowers. This reed is best known for it's ability to prevent wave action erosion of earthen dams. Rhizomes were planted on (12 inch by 24 inch spacing) the rows were laid out parallel to the drainage flow. A sharp shooter shovel was utilized to open a slot large enough to place the rhizomes in and then closed by healing them in. Survival in the Northeast Texas area exceeded 50 percent in most years. Livestock must be excluded for successful establishment.

Additional Key Words: Stolons

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