

Determining the nutrient status – leaf analysis

The amount of nutrients present in a lake and lake sediment will determine what, how much and how big plants and animals can grow. Most lakes in Europe have a reed bed surrounding the lake. In this protocol we want to determine the nutrient status of the lake by measuring the width of the common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Please read the entire protocol before starting! Normal health and safety precautions should be taken at all times, for more information see website: www.nioo.knaw.nl/en/Netlake-Citizen-Science

Preparations and materials

- Measuring tape
- Boots or waterproof shoes

Method

- Find stands of the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) on the shore of your lake.
- Pick out ten (10) individual plants randomly:
You can randomize plant selection for example, by taking 3 steps to the left and pick the 12th plant you encounter.
- For each plant, measure the maximum width in millimeters of the third leaf from the apex, the top of the plant.
- Calculate the mean value (add up the 10 widths and divide by 10).
- Please send in your results via www.nioo.knaw.nl/en/Netlake-Citizen-Science

