

# Why *Phragmites*?

We chose *Phragmites australis* as the focus for this integrated curriculum unit for several reasons:

- It is large, has a distinctive appearance and is extremely widely distributed within New Jersey and beyond, increasing the chances that every student in the class will have seen this species near where they live. In many, if not most, cases, students and teachers would be able to collect materials for use in class activities on or near their school's property, perhaps as part of the class activity.



- It is a major invasive species with a clear and often negative impact upon the landscapes in which it is found.
- It has a long and interesting history that allowed us to create entrees for engaging students who might not otherwise be interested in "science"
- It is conducive to use in a wide variety of craft activities which again creates opportunities for engaging students in the learning process.

# About Georgian Court University

Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of New Jersey, Georgian Court University is located in residential Lakewood, New Jersey, on a magnificent 155-acre estate formerly belonging to railroad baron, George Jay Gould. Open to students of all faiths, Georgian Court University provides a comprehensive liberal arts education in the Roman Catholic tradition with a special concern for women.

The university offers a curriculum that is broad enough to be truly liberal, yet specialized enough to provide in-depth preparation for careers or further study. Degree programs include Biology (BA/BS/MS), Biochemistry (BS), Chemistry (BA/BS), Math (BA), Natural Sciences (BS), Nursing (BSN) and Physics (BA/BS).

The unique Georgian Court University atmosphere is one of a small college ambiance in a technologically advanced, highly esteemed university setting. Centered around the core values of the Sisters of Mercy, the university offers an extremely safe and nurturing campus environment with individualized attention and guidance, and a commitment to service.

**Georgian Court University**  
900 Lakewood Avenue  
Lakewood NJ 08701



*Respect*  
*Integrity*  
*Justice*  
*Compassion*  
*Service*



## Invasive Species Integrated Curriculum Unit



Invasive species are one of the most important hazards to New Jersey's natural habitats. Get the word out to your students in a fun and engaging way using a two-week integrated curriculum, grounded in the New Jersey Core Content Standards.

All lesson plans, along with associated worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, rubrics, etc. can be downloaded from our website

[http://gcuonline.georgian.edu/  
phragmites.htm](http://gcuonline.georgian.edu/phragmites.htm)

