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NEXT EPOCH SEED LIBRARY

PHRAGMITES

**Phragmites australis** creates monocultures in disturbed landscapes, such as the NJ Meadowlands, displacing **Spartina alterniflora**, the native reed.

It's common practice to remove Phragmites using herbicides and replace it with **Spartina**.

The US dedicates millions of dollars per year to this effort, with only limited success.

NJ's tidal marshes, crucial ecosystems, are losing ground to sea level rise.

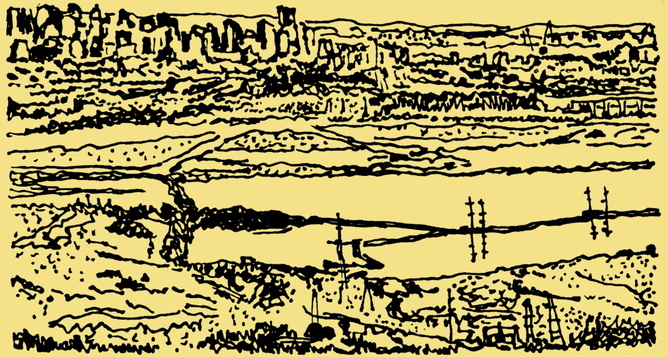
Marshes have two options for survival:

1. Increase their elevation
2. Move inland.

FLIP

But moving inland is not an option in the Meadowlands.

Adjacent land is completely dereloped.



The only marshes in the state elevating fast enough are dominated by Phragmites.

Phragmites decomposes **slowly,** trapping more sediment and building elevation faster than native grasses.

Without Phragmites, those marshes will be lost in the next century, and with them, the habitat for countless species and the buffer that protects nearby communities from storm surges.

Allowing some Phragmites to remain is a revolutionary idea that many oppose.

We are chasing a pristine ideal while the ecosystem vanishes.



SOURCES