

Arundo Donax (giant reed)

A very dense growing perennial grass nine to thirty feet tall. Its cane-like clumps spreads from horizontal rootstocks below the soil forming large colonies many feet across. Native to the Mediterranean area. Planted to prevent erosion since early 1800's.



ECOLOGICAL THREATS:

- A water hog. Giant reed can grow 4-6" a day.
- Giant reed displaces native plants and associated wildlife species because of the massive stands it forms.
- Reduces habitat and food supply for insect and bird populations.
- Giant reed provides little shading to the in-stream habitat, leading to increased water temperatures and reduced habitat quality for aquatic wildlife.
- Contributes to higher fire frequency.
- During floods, giant reed creates a hazard when trapped behind bridges and other structures.
- While planting is intended for erosion control, giant reed can promote bank collapse because the shallow root system is often undercut.
- Growth can become so thick that navigability of waterways is compromised.

Recommended sites:

www.cal-ipc.org

www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ardo1.htm

DON'T PLANT A PEST! TRY THESE INSTEAD:



Arizona rosewood



Hop bush



Quail Bush