

Arundo wastes water.

To sustain its rapid growth, Arundo consumes large amounts of water. This is water that native plants, fish, and wildlife need to survive. It is also water not available for human use.



Arundo invades streambanks, accelerates erosion, destabilizes banks, and threatens nearby structures.

Arundo creates erosion and flooding problems.

Its shallow roots are easily undercut by streamflow. The roots then break off from streambanks and take soil with them. Clumps of Arundo float downstream and clog culverts and channels. These obstructions cause flooding and can wash out bridges, resulting in millions of dollars of damage. Large Arundo infestations can also alter streamflows by redirecting the water, which undercuts streambanks and causes them to collapse.

If you own land along a stream with an Arundo infestation, request help and provide access for control efforts.

What you can do to help.

Get involved! Take action!

In spite of the serious threat that Arundo poses to our streams, it can be controlled. Many areas in California have small or mid-sized Arundo infestations that can be eliminated now before they become huge problems. Larger infestations can be controlled, but such efforts are costly and usually require coordination among multiple stakeholders. The easiest and most economical way to control Arundo is to treat it early before it becomes well established.

Landowners and small groups can make a big difference in ridding our streams of this noxious weed. There are proven, simple methods for controlling Arundo.

- ✓ Learn more about Arundo and how to identify it.
- ✓ Report sightings of Arundo to a local conservation group or agency.
- ✓ Join local eradication efforts already underway or help to start one.
- ✓ If you own land along a stream with an Arundo infestation, request help and provide access for control efforts.
- ✓ Be a part of the solution.

This brochure was produced for the Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game by the Sonoma Ecology Center, with the assistance of Team Arundo del Norte (TAdN), Team Arundo-So. Cal., Cal-IPC, and others. TAdN is a multi-stakeholder partnership dedicated to the control of Arundo in central and northern California. The Arundo Eradication and Coordination Program is a project of TAdN and is administered by the Sonoma Ecology Center: P.O. Box 1486, Eldridge, CA 95431; 707-996-0712, ext. 103; arundo@sonomaecologycenter.org.

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Contact other agencies/ groups for more information.

For assistance with eradication information, planning, and tools or training pertaining to mapping and monitoring, contact Team Arundo del Norte (TAdN) at www.teamarundo.org. To identify Arundo eradication projects already underway in your area, or to locate potential partners and funding sources, contact any of the following agencies or groups:

- **Team Arundo del Norte**
www.teamarundo.org
- **Team Arundo, Southern Cal.**
www.sawpa.org/arundo
- **California Invasive Plant Council**
www.cal-ipc.org
- **Local Weed Management Area**
(Ca. Dept. of Food and Agriculture)
www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedmgareas/wma_index_hp.htm
- **Local flood control district or water agency**
- **Watershed or other conservation group**
- **Local chapter of the Ca. Native Plant Society**
www.cnps.org/cnps/chapters/
- **County Agricultural Commissioner's Office**
www.cdffa.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html
- **Resource Conservation District**

For additional copies of this brochure, please contact:

Arundo

Streamside Invader

Arundo is aggressively invading California's streams.

You can help protect them.

Early stage of Arundo, showing plant stalk and rhizomes (roots).



What is Arundo?

Arundo (*Arundo donax*), also called giant reed or giant cane, is an invasive non-native plant with stems that resemble bamboo and leaves that resemble corn. It is an extremely fast-growing plant that can grow four inches a day and up to 30 feet tall. Arundo is found primarily in moist places, usually along streams and other waterways, but provides little food or habitat for insects, birds, or other wildlife.

Arundo was introduced into the Americas by early European immigrants and used as a building material. It was also planted along streams to prevent erosion, but proved a poor choice: it soon grew out of control and became a flood and fire hazard. Arundo is still found in landscapes and used as a screen, as well as to make baskets and reeds for musical instruments. Plans are now underway in Europe and the U.S. to grow Arundo commercially for fuel and paper. Arundo is listed as a noxious weed in California and Texas.

Why is Arundo such a threat to California's streams?



When Arundo stalks fall into streams, they easily resprout and spread downstream.

Arundo is aggressively invading our streams.

It spreads quickly, even into thickly vegetated areas, and crowds out native plants. When sections of the stem or root break off, they float downstream to start new colonies. Eventually the colonies merge into a single, large infestation that can cover vast tracts of riparian habitat.



Arundo brings fire into areas not adapted to fire. Once burned, native riparian vegetation may not recover.

Arundo and fire make a dangerous combination.

Arundo is highly flammable and burns even when green. When Arundo carries fire into a waterway, riverside trees are killed and nearby crops and buildings may be destroyed. After a fire, Arundo grows back rapidly from its roots, thicker than before, and with little or no competition from other plants. Arundo transforms a naturally fire-resistant buffer of native plants along our creeks into a threat to our environment and our homes.

Arundo displaces native plants.

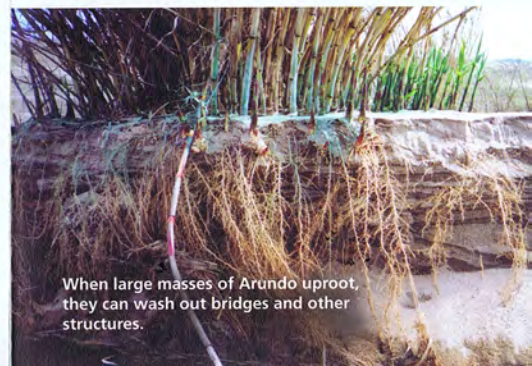
Arundo outcompetes other streamside plants because it grows so quickly. Arundo infestations can reduce the rich streamside ecosystem to a wasteland of pure Arundo. By this process, Arundo has come to completely dominate some streams in California and other states.



Arundo is one of the fastest growing land plants in the world. It can grow up to 4 inches per day and up to 30 feet tall.

Arundo destroys fish and wildlife habitat.

The forests and marshes along our creeks and rivers support an incredibly diverse number of plants and animals. They comprise one of the richest and most threatened ecological communities in the state. Numerous bird, fish, reptile, and amphibian species that depend on riparian (streamside) areas are declining across the country. Arundo contributes to the loss of this habitat by displacing native plants that provide food, shelter, and breeding habitat for fish and wildlife.



When large masses of Arundo uproot, they can wash out bridges and other structures.

In spite of the serious threat Arundo poses...

...it can be controlled.