Be an Arundo Control Hero!

**Know the enemy.** Learn to recognize non-native Arundo—mature plants, roots and fragments.

**Sound the alarm.** Spread the facts about Arundo and how to manage it. Speak up when you see Arundo being mismanaged.

**Be aware.** Take a good look at fill dirt and other aggregate materials, especially when building near a creek or river. If Arundo pieces are found in material, reject the delivery or remove the pieces.

**More information:**
For help in making an Arundo management plan, call 512-389-4444 and ask for an aquatic invasive specialist. Good online resources are:
- AquaPlant.tamu.edu
- TPWD.texas.gov/Arundo
- TexasInvasives.org

---

**Tips for Herbicide Use**

Herbicides are the best way to treat mature Arundo plants. When used properly, herbicides have the least environmental impact and greatest effect.

Several herbicides are specifically labeled for use to treat *Arundo donax*. Herbicides with imazapyr or imazamox, mixed with glyphosate, have shown to be most effective, as is treating regrowth after cutting (collect all fragments!). Learn more at AquaPlant.tamu.edu

Near water, the law requires that you use an herbicide formulation labeled for aquatic use. Before managing Arundo on public waters or tributaries, a Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation treatment proposal must be submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

After herbicide application, leave treated plants in place, even after they brown. Except for burning (where safe/permittted), do not disturb herbicide-treated plants for two years or you risk reinvigorating the plant.

When left in place, dying Arundo provides some erosion control and acts as a nursery area to protect young, native plants. Watch for Arundo regrowth and look for new sprouts. Re-treat with herbicide as necessary.

Small sprouts may be removed by hand, but be careful to collect all fragments. Take care that they don’t take root while drying. Once completely dry, the sprouts are no longer a hazard to spreading.

---

**Arundo donax**, also known as giant reed or Carrizo cane, is a **HIGHLY INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE, DOMINATING PLANT** that grows up to 30-feet tall in dense stands.

**Train your eye to see Arundo.**
- Tall, cane-like grass with hollow stems, long wide leaves, and showy plumes
- Fast-growing in tall, thick stands
- Dormant and brown in winter; not dead, only sleeping
- Tubercular, shallow roots form a dense mass
- Commonly found in roadside ditches and along creeks and rivers

**Sprouting node**
**Root mass**
**Stalk with sprouting node**
The impacts of an Arundo invasion are **DEVASTATING** to Texas waterways, and prevention is **CRITICAL**.

**When you know the harm Arundo can do, you'll want to control it too!**

**Key things to know about Arundo:**

**Spreads Like Wildfire.**
When disturbed, the Arundo plant will sprout new plants from tiny fragments of stalk or root material and will quickly spread and take over a waterway or right-of-way.

**Changes Flood Patterns.**
Arundo interferes with the floodplain's natural ability to lessen flood energy. As a result, flow patterns and volumes change, leading to greater damage from floods.

**Diverts Water Supply.**
Arundo is a thirsty plant that can reduce stream flows and change water quality. Studies have shown dense colonies of Arundo may use 24 to 48 acre-feet of water for each acre of infestation within a stream bed.

**Causes Bank Erosion.**
Arundo roots form a thick mat near the surface but have no deep root strength. Floodwaters can easily undercut the root mass resulting in bank failure, erosion, and damage to property, structures and bridges.

**Creates a Fire Hazard.**
The Arundo plant has a high wax content and is an extremely volatile fuel. It can substantially increase the danger and intensity of wildfires and decrease the ability of the waterway to act as a firebreak.

**Alters Native Habitat.**
Non-native Arundo crowds out native plants, and its roots dominate banks. As a result, habitat for native fish and wildlife is lost or degraded.

---

**MOWING, TILLING, BULLDOZING and other mechanical treatments cause Arundo to spread.**

**Watch for Arundo Contamination and Learn Proper Treatment**

**In Construction Fill Dirt.** Construction fill dirt and other aggregate materials sometimes contain Arundo roots or fragments that can cause an infestation. Watch for and manage Arundo plants at material source locations and remove any root or cane fragments during construction to help prevent an expensive problem down the road. During follow-up inspections, **watch for sprouting canes and treat with herbicide promptly!** Tips for proper herbicide use are on the back page.

**At Construction Sites.** Construction activities that involve the use of earthmoving equipment always have the potential to spread Arundo. **When possible, treat mature Arundo with herbicide long BEFORE bringing in construction equipment.** Otherwise, take great care to ensure that Arundo is removed and transported to the landfill. Plant fragments should not be spread about on-site or moved to new places on equipment. Re-vegetation plans should use native plants when possible.

**In Your Path.** **Do not cut, mow, till, bulldoze, or shred Arundo.** Even a tiny fragment can create a new plant and be spread by a stream or river. When Arundo is present, mow around it. If you accidentally mow Arundo, immediately stop and pick up any fragments. Turn off mower and follow manufacturer’s safety recommendations to remove any fragments caught in the mower deck to prevent carrying them to a new site. Managing infestations with herbicide is more effective. In areas away from where water might run, Arundo may be cut to reduce herbicide use—remove cut canes! Then treat regrowth with herbicide; repeat as needed.