



Stand of *Arundo donax*

# THINK NATIVE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND STOP GROWING ARUNDO!

## WHY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS SHOULD STOP PLANTING AND START GETTING RID OF *ARUNDO DONAX*

### ARUNDO HOGS WATER

*Arundo* uses large amounts of water that would otherwise be available to native plants and surrounding areas. Drought-prone southern California cannot afford to support a plant that uses three times the water of native riparian species.



Landscape near Narrows Park : April 2002 fire cleared an estimated 250 acres of *Arundo*



### Why should we get rid of *Arundo* in our yards?

#### ARUNDO CAN TAKE OVER YOUR YARD

*Arundo* can grow up to 2 - 4 inches per day. *Arundo* can overwhelm carefully landscaped vegetation in your yard, infesting an entire yard over time.

### ARUNDO INCREASES RISK OF FIRE

*Arundo* is highly combustible, increasing risk of fire frequency and intensity. Southern California suffers notoriously destructive wildfires.

Homeowners with *Arundo* in their yard face a higher risk of property damage and threat to personal safety than those without it. Catastrophic fires fueled by the invasion of *Arundo* throughout the Santa Ana Watershed burden local and state fire departments. For example, one *Arundo*-fueled fire in April 2002 swept through over 250 acres of riverbed near Anza Narrows Park in Riverside County.

### Is it illegal to buy and sell *Arundo*?

Not yet. *Arundo* is still sold commercially as a bank stabilizing and ornamental species throughout the United States. However, current regulatory measures are underway to classify *Arundo* as a

“Noxious Weed” in the state of California. Depending upon the outcome of this classification, it could soon be illegal to sell *Arundo* in all or parts of the State. The California Exotic Pest Plant Council places *Arundo* on its “List A: Most Invasive Wildland Pest Plants” because of its invasive habits.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP GROWING ARUNDO!

*Arundo donax* costs southern Californians millions of dollars each year.

This invasive plant:

- *Is a fire hazard*
- *Hogs water*
- *Harms native wildlife*
- *Destroys bridges*
- *Clogs channels*
- *Causes flooding*
- *Is expensive to remove*

### Who should we contact if we're interested in removing *Arundo* from our yards?

There are a number of current removal programs underway in the Watershed. If you have questions, please contact:



### Where can I get more information about *Arundo*?

- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) [www.sawpa.org/arundo](http://www.sawpa.org/arundo)
- The Nature Conservancy <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/arundon.html>
- United States Forest Service <http://svinet2.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/arudon/all.html>
- Team *Arundo* del Norte <http://ceres.ca.gov/tadn/>

### What could I plant instead of *Arundo*?

Plant Native!

- Mulefat
- Willow
- Cottonwood
- Elderberry

Or contact the California Native Plant Society for more ideas. Ph.916.447.2677 ([www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org))

Specific questions? Email Alison Shilling of the Riverside/ San Bernardino NPS Chapter: [awshilling@earthlink.net](mailto:awshilling@earthlink.net)



Native option: *Salix laevigata* (bushy willow)

### ARUNDO CAUSES HARM TO NATIVE WILDLIFE

*Arundo* is not native to southern California and has no natural enemies in this part of the world. Therefore, it readily invades habitat near rivers and streams, quickly overtaking large areas and effectively killing native species through competition. Since *Arundo* does not provide significant food or nesting habitat for native animals, it causes harm to threatened and endangered species such as the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher.



## What is *Arundo*?

*Arundo donax*, also called giant cane, is a hardy aquatic plant that resembles bamboo. This plant, which can grow to heights of up to 20 feet, is not native to southern California—it's exotic and invasive.

## What's wrong with *Arundo*?

### ARUNDO COSTS TAXPAYERS A LOT OF MONEY

Within the Santa Ana Watershed (parts of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties) alone, local agencies will spend over \$20 million to remove *Arundo donax* during the next three years. In addition, Riverside County's River Road Bridge near Norco was damaged by *Arundo* twice within 3

years, causing almost \$1 million in damage. Unlike native plants, which are adapted to survive southern California flooding events by bending rather than breaking, *Arundo donax* plants break when subjected to rising floodwaters. *Arundo* surges downstream, combining with trash and other debris to damage bridges, clog river channels, and re-direct river flows, thereby flooding neighboring areas. In addition, the plants wash up on local beaches, incurring high beach cleanup costs.



River Road Bridge, 1998



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