

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



The CSU, Chico Research Foundation, the City of Chico and the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance are working together to eradicate this noxious weed. Through grant funding from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and Team Arundo del Norte of the Sonoma Ecology Center, these partners are treating the weed and removing it from our stream channels. The first phase of the project is in Lindo Channel/Sandy Gulch and will begin in late summer of 2006.

You can help, too. If you own property along our streams and have this noxious weed, please contact the partner organizations.



CSU Chico College of Engineering,
Computer Science and Construction
Management
sstrachan@csuchico.edu
Phone (530) 894-1308

The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance



www.bigchicocreek.org
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org
Phone (530) 892-2196



Chico Parks Department
896-7800

Arundo Streamside Invader



Arundo Donax (Giant Reed)

***Arundo Donax or Giant
Reed threatens our
streams and our homes.
This highly invasive
noxious weed can be
controlled. Learn the
impacts of Arundo and
what can be done to stop
its spread.***

WHAT IS ARUNDO?

Arundo Donax or Giant Reed is an extremely fast growing plant resembling bamboo. It can grow four inches a day, and up to 30 feet tall. Arundo grows in moist places, usually along streams and ditches. It was introduced into California by Spanish missionaries and used as building material. It is still used to make reeds for musical instruments and as an ornamental plant. Alien to the Americas, it provides little habitat and is a severe fire hazard.

WHY IS ARUNDO SUCH A THREAT?

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.

Arundo and fire make a dangerous combination.

Imagine our rivers as highways for wildfire. It can happen when Arundo take over. 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. But Arundo grows back rapidly from its roots, thicker than before, and without competition from other plants. Arundo transforms a naturally fire-resistant buffer along our creeks into a threat to our environment and our homes.

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 are one of the richest and most threatened ecological communities in the state. Many species that depend on 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.

Arundo creates erosion and flooding problems.



Its shallow roots are easily undercut by stream flow.

The roots then break off from stream banks, taking soil with them. Clumps of Arundo float downstream and clog culverts and channels. The obstructions cause flooding and sometimes wash out bridges. Large infestations can redirect water against stream banks, undercutting them and causing landslides.

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 in other states.