

Arundo donax – Giant Reed

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Abstract

Arundo donax L., giant reed, carrizo cane, is an exotic and invasive weed of riparian habitats in the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. Giant reed dominates these habitats, which leads to: loss of biodiversity; stream bank erosion; damage to bridges; increased costs for chemical or mechanical control along irrigation canals and transportation corridors; and impedes access for law enforcement personnel. Most importantly this invasive weed competes for water resources in an arid region where these resources are critical to the environment, agriculture and urban users. Biological control using insects from the native range of giant reed may be the best option for long-term management. *A. donax* is a good target for biological control because it has no close relatives in North or South America, and several of the plant feeding insects from Mediterranean Europe and known to only feed on *A. donax*.