



Giant Reed

Arundo donax

- Creeping rhizomatous Perennial
- Grows 6-30 feet tall
- Invasive weed that grows in waterways, disturbed sites, garden edges.
- Displaces native riparian vegetation
- Mowing and tilling encourage new growth
- Sold as a ornamental

Cache County Vegetation

Management Division

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Suggested Control Methods for Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

Mechanical & Physical Control

Cutting/Mowing: Repeated cutting to ground level can eventually deplete root reserves, but fragments left behind will re-sprout, so it is best combined with chemical control.

Digging/Excavation: Effective for small areas but challenging due to regeneration from root pieces; requires careful removal and disposal.

Chemical Control (Herbicides)

Timing: Most effective when plants are actively growing (late summer/fall).

Application: Systemic herbicides move to the roots. Apply as a foliar spray (to leaves) or to freshly cut stems within minutes.

Common Active Ingredients: Glyphosate, Imazamox, Imazapyr, Triclopyr.

Aquatic Use: Use only products specifically labeled for aquatic use if near water to protect aquatic life.

Integrated Management (Best Practice)

Cut/Mow: Remove aboveground biomass in spring/early summer.

Spray: Apply appropriate herbicide (e.g., glyphosate) to the 3-4 foot tall re-sprouts in late summer/fall.

Monitor & Repeat: Expect to repeat treatments for several years (3-4) to exhaust root reserves and control new sprouts.

Revegetate Plant native species as a follow-up to outcompete giant reed.