

Giant reed is an invasive non-native grass that is responsible for the degradation of waterways throughout California.

Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) has spread rapidly throughout ecosystems, causing damage to both the riverways and adjacent landholdings. Tens of millions of tax dollars are being spent each year in Southern California to remove this noxious weed. **Fortunately, the Russian River infestation is in its infancy, and can be successfully controlled if we address this problem now.**



THE ERADICATION OF GIANT REED

REMOVE THIS PLANT FROM YOUR PROPERTY FREE OF CHARGE

PROTECTING OUR WATERSHEDS AND YOUR LANDHOLDINGS



PROJECT PARTNERS

Circuit Rider Productions, Inc.



Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

PROJECT FUNDERS



Community Foundation Sonoma County



Sonoma County Water Agency



State of California Coastal Conservancy



State of California Department of Fish and Game



Wildlife Conservation Board

Why should you get rid of giant reed?

Giant reed is a fire hazard.

- It produces large amounts of combustible material, averaging 20 feet in height.
- It spreads quickly, and resprouts rapidly after fire, while the native riparian vegetation is destroyed.

After a recent fire, giant reed quickly resprouts under dead cottonwoods.



Giant reed decreases water availability.

- It uses 5-10 times more water than most native riparian plants.

Giant reed provides no benefits to wildlife.

- It outcompetes native vegetation that would serve as habitat or food sources.
- It provides little shade, thus increasing water temperatures and threatening salmonid populations.

Giant reed forms huge monocultures, providing little habitat for wildlife.



Giant reed destabilizes banks.

- Its shallow fibrous roots are easily undercut by running water, causing bank failure.
- The broken root mass and stalks float downstream to colonize other areas.
- It replaces more effective stabilizers, like native cottonwoods and willows.

Shallow fibrous roots are easily undercut by running water...



...causing the root mass and stalks to break off...



...and float downstream to colonize other areas, and cause further bank destabilization.



**CALL TODAY
TO FIND OUT HOW TO
REMOVE THIS PLANT**

HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM?

Giant reed is spreading rapidly throughout the Russian River watershed. In 1996, giant reed had overtaken an estimated 250 acres of riparian habitat. This grew to over 300 acres by 2005. At this rate, infestation will double to 600 acres over the next forty years.

HOW IS THIS PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED?

The **Russian River Giant Reed Removal Project** has piloted efforts to eradicate the invasive plant from the watershed and replace it with native species. Funded primarily by state regulatory agencies, the project has mapped the extent of the infestation, worked with landowners to identify and understand the impacts of the problem, and piloted non-toxic and least toxic removal methods to begin the eradication.

FREE REMOVAL

By participating in the project, you will receive giant reed removal from your property free of charge. If you can supply irrigation to the site, we will provide a comprehensive restoration project, complete with labor, materials, and native plants grown in Circuit Rider's nursery. This service is estimated at \$50,000 per acre.

Revegetation with native plants works to stabilize banks and improve riparian habitat.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If your property borders the Russian River or any of the streams feeding it, or you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Circuit Rider Productions, Inc.:

Noelle Johnson, Arundo Outreach Coordinator
(707) 838-6641 x227
njohnson@crpinc.org
www.crpinc.org