



Tarping of Giant Reed

For our project partners that prefer an herbicide free removal, we offer a very effective control technique. Our tarps starve the growing *Arundo donax* of light over the active growing season, inhibiting photosynthesis and severely depleting the reserves in the *Arundo* rootstock. After initial biomass removal, the tarp installation process begins.

TOOLS

- Tarp roll
- Tape measure
- Cutting implement,
- Staples or washer pins
- Dead blow hammer (with staples) or 3 lb sledge hammer (with washer pins)

CLOTHING

- Long pants
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Boots

SAFETY

Observe standard safety procedures.



RECUT the stalks to a standard height as close to the ground as possible. Make sure that the cuts are level, not angled (picture). Stalks cut at an angle could cause serious injury if a fall occurs, and may poke holes in the tarp. If the site can be cleaned up to make the tarp installation easier, do so—remove brush, litter, or any object that may interfere with the tarp laying flat.



MEASURE the longest width by the longest length of the clump and add about 10% or 4 feet, whichever is smaller.



CUT the tarp to this measurement. Use tarp pieces as large as possible to minimize any “quilting effect”—the *Arundo* growing between tarp edges. The Marafi tarping material comes in 12-ft rolls, so for larger clumps some overlapping of pieces may be necessary. Keep in mind that larger tarps are easier to reuse because they can be cut smaller if necessary.



SECURE the tarp over the clump footprint with staples, washer pins, or rocks or other heavy objects from the site.

Staples: Use 12-inch, 9 gauge staples. Pound them in with a dead blow hammer and space as needed, about every 1½ to 2 feet around the perimeter

Washer pins: Use 12-inch, 7 gauge washer pins. These are headless nails with a bulge at the top and a washer attached below the bulge. They are good for cobble or other rocky areas. Use a 3 lb sledgehammer and space about every 2 feet around the perimeter.

Other materials: Sometimes rocks or deadwood can be used, but don't mine the surroundings. Use these materials only if the other methods are not working, and use them sparingly.



MONITOR the tarp every two weeks, patching any holes that occur. Avoid walking over the tarps as much as possible. Even a very small hole can provide enough light for the *arundo* to survive.

Tarps can be set out after May 1st and must be removed prior to November 15th, unless installed safely outside of the flood area. Tarps must remain in place at least six months to be effective, and often need to be reapplied the following season to allow for complete kill.

