

## Guide to Removing Invasive Arundo

Arundo donax, or Giant Reed, is an invasive species impacting our creeks, rivers, and springs. Arundo can outcompete our native riparian trees and plants forming dense stands with little habitat value that also depletes available water.



Can grow over 20 feet tall

Uses up to 4x the amount of water as native plants

Is a fire and flood hazard



Sprouts from the cane or the rhizome

## How to Remove Invasive Arundo

Arundo can be systematically removed with simple techniques. Small stands are easy to remove. The larger the stand, the more labor needed, so consider asking a friend, neighbors, or Watershed Management Group for assistance.

### Step 1: Cut the Cane

Using pruning loppers, cut the arundo stalk near the base. Cut into manageable sections as needed to be able to drag and set aside.



### Step 2: Dig out the rhizome

Use a pick axe (mattock) and excavate around the rhizome. Use the handle of the pick to help lever out the rhizome. Be sure to fully remove the entire rhizome as it will resprout if a section is left in the soil.



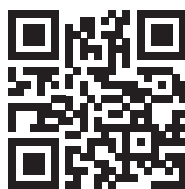
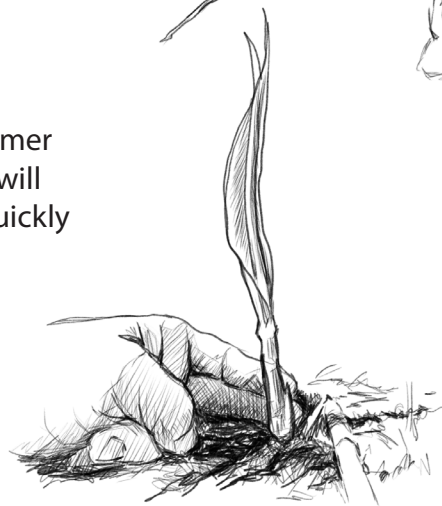
### Step 3: Remove from flood zone

Stack the cane and pile the rhizomes up and out of the potential flood zone to fully dry out or to be thrown away (green waste). This will prevent the Arundo from resprouting or getting carried away and resprouting downstream.



### Step 4: Check for resprouts

It can be difficult to ensure the entire rhizome is removed from the soil. So, be sure to check for resprouts—especially during the spring and summer seasons. A small green shoot, like a stalk of corn, will show you where to use a small pick mattock to quickly remove any remaining rhizome.



[watershedmg.org/arundo](https://watershedmg.org/arundo)

Thank you to the Arizona State Department of Forestry and Fire Management for providing funding through the Healthy Forest Initiative. We appreciate the hundreds of River Run Network volunteers helping us remove Arundo and restore our creeks and rivers. If the Arundo is not on your property, check with the landowner first before planning any removal.