



Healthy Creeks Initiative: Participation & Next Steps

DO NOT mow or till Arundo! This invasive grass is easily spread by mechanical disturbance and floating cut stalks (even a very small fragment) can spread this invader to your downstream neighbors.

Step 1: Contact Us

To learn more or sign up for the Healthy Creeks Initiative, email us at healthycreeks@tpwd.texas.gov.

If you don't have email, call:

Blanco River—Ryan McGillicuddy—512-552-3713

Pedernales River and tributaries—Monica McGarrity—512-552-3465

Step 2: Attend an Information Session

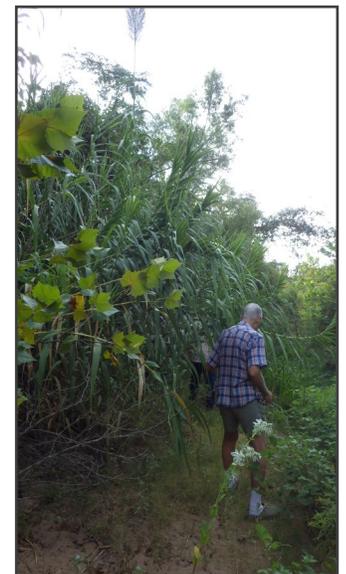
Informal information sessions are held periodically in Fredericksburg, Blanco, and Wimberly. For details on any upcoming workshops, contact us at the email address above or keep an eye on our website at <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/aquatic-invasives/hill-country-giant-reed.phtml>. We would love to visit with you in person!



Involved landowners attend a 'Healthy Creeks' information session.

Step 3: Personal Site Visit

After you've signed up for more information, either by email or at an information session, we'll contact you personally to try to schedule a site visit to see and measure the Arundo on your property, talk about riparian health and management options for you, learn about your specific needs, and answer your questions about treatment. **Before or at the time of the visit, you'll need to sign a permission form to allow us and our contractors access to your property to provide treatment and follow-up monitoring.** You'll also get to specify how your information is shared.



Landowner overshadowed by Arundo along the creek on his property during a site visit.

Step 4: Initial Herbicide Application (No Cost)

Licensed, professional herbicide applicators will carefully apply aquatic-labeled herbicides to the Arundo on your property during the summer. You will be notified in advance of the application date(s), although the exact date/time may change with weather and contractor schedule.





Left: Licensed applicator carefully applies aquatic herbicide. Center and right: A few weeks later, canes show signs of damage.

Step 5: Post-treatment Monitoring (we will visit 3-4 weeks after treatment)

- **Browning/dying canes:** After treatment, the canes will begin to turn brown quickly—in a matter of weeks. They will remain in place, and will look very much like they do during the winter months.
- **Nontarget damage to other plants:** We will take care to reduce nontarget damage, but some damage to desirable plants may be unavoidable. Grasses are especially susceptible but will usually regrow quickly. Trees with brown leaves on a few branches will also usually recover quickly. Take photos of damage and email them to us if you have questions.
- **Leave it alone!** After herbicide treatment, it can be tempting to cut or mow the canes. Leaving them in place creates a nursery area for native plants to grow and helps keep it from resprouting or spreading.
- **Monitor regrowth:** The initial herbicide treatment may not completely kill the plant—retreatment will likely be needed. You can watch for green growth, new shoots, or “pups” (side shoot growth).
- **Native/invasive plant emergence:** Soon, native plant seedlings will sprout among the canes. Unfortunately, you’ll also need to watch for other invasive plants such as privets, Chinaberry, and Chinese tallowtree. Take photos and email us if you have questions. For extreme infestations, planting native trees among the canes after treatment may be advised.
- **Follow-up visits:** We or our contractors will also be monitoring the effectiveness of the treatment and positive benefits to the creek. You will be notified of the monitoring visit date(s) if we need to enter the property.



Dying canes after treatment.



Re-sprouting and side shoot “pups” may appear — watch closely!

Step 6: Retreatment and Revegetation

Achieving effective control often requires more than one herbicide application. By monitoring the treatment’s effectiveness, we’ll be ready to re-treat next year, and even revise treatment plans if necessary. Revegetation, whether natural or through seeding/planting, is an important part of riparian restoration.



hill country alliance

