

The impacts of an Arundo invasion are **DEVASTATING** to Texas waterways, and prevention is **CRITICAL**.



Arundo donax has completely taken over segments of the Rio Grande.

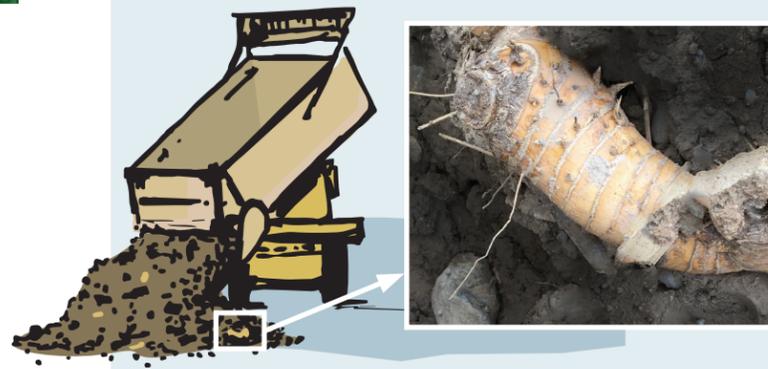


MOWING, TILLING, BULLDOZING and other mechanical treatments cause Arundo to spread.



Watch for Arundo Contamination and Learn Proper Treatment

In Construction Fill Dirt. Construction fill dirt and other aggregate materials sometimes contain Arundo roots or fragments that can cause an infestation. Watch for and manage Arundo plants at material source locations and remove any root or cane fragments during construction to help prevent an expensive problem down the road. During follow-up inspections, **watch for sprouting canes and treat with herbicide promptly!** Tips for proper herbicide use are on the back page.



At Construction Sites. Construction activities that involve the use of earthmoving equipment always have the potential to spread Arundo. **When possible, treat mature Arundo with herbicide long BEFORE bringing in construction equipment.** Otherwise, take great care to ensure that Arundo is removed and transported to the landfill. Plant fragments should not be spread about on-site or moved to new places on equipment. Re-vegetation plans should use native plants when possible.



Key things to know about Arundo:

Spreads Like Wildfire.

When disturbed, the Arundo plant will sprout new plants from tiny fragments of stalk or root material and will quickly spread and take over a waterway or right-of-way.

Causes Bank Erosion.

Arundo roots form a thick mat near the surface but have no deep root strength. Floodwaters can easily undercut the root mass resulting in bank failure, erosion, and damage to property, structures and bridges.

Changes Flood Patterns.

Arundo interferes with the floodplain's natural ability to lessen flood energy. As a result, flow patterns and volumes change, leading to greater damage from floods.

Creates a Fire Hazard.

The Arundo plant has a high wax content and is an extremely volatile fuel. It can substantially increase the danger and intensity of wildfires and decrease the ability of the waterway to act as a firebreak.

Diverts Water Supply.

Arundo is a thirsty plant that can reduce stream flows and change water quality. Studies have shown dense colonies of Arundo may use 24 to 48 acre-feet of water for each acre of infestation within a stream bed.

Alters Native Habitat.

Non-native Arundo crowds out native plants, and its roots dominate banks. As a result, habitat for native fish and wildlife is lost or degraded.

In Your Path. **Do not cut, mow, till, bulldoze, or shred Arundo.** Even a tiny fragment can create a new plant and be spread by a stream or river. When Arundo is present, mow around it. If you accidentally mow Arundo, immediately stop and pick up any fragments. Turn off mower and follow manufacturer's safety recommendations to remove any fragments caught in the mower deck to prevent carrying them to a new site. Managing infestations with herbicide is more effective. In areas away from where water might run, Arundo may be cut to reduce herbicide use—remove cut canes! Then treat regrowth with herbicide; repeat as needed.

