

Arundo donax

COMMON NAME

giant reed

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Arundo donax L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

ARUDON

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Often aquatic. Emergent. Moist forest communities, lowland and coastal forest, streamside and gully communities, intertidal areas, shrublands, alluvial areas, roadsides, farm hedges, wastelands, domestic gardens, coastal areas in general. Prefers areas where the soil does not dry out completely.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Clump-forming bamboo-like grass to 8 m. **Root mass** dense, rhizomes short. **Stems** hollow, erect, becoming semi-lax, woody. **Leaves** alternate, 30–90 × 5 cm, parallel veins, bamboo-like, bluish-green (white-striped form is common in cultivation). **Seedhead** terminal, fluffy.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar dimensions to *Phragmites australis*, but *Arundo* has leaves arranged in two rows, while *Phragmites* does not. Generally looks like a leafy bamboo, but has much larger leaves arranged in two rows.

FLOWERING

April

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. *Arundo* produces loose clumps of lateral rhizomes, which are thickening underground stems that produce new shoots and plants at intervals along the stems. Little or no seed set in New Zealand. Spreads by rhizomes. Broken stems may occasionally resprout. Dispersed by water and soil movement, garden dumping.

YEAR NATURALISED

1936

ORIGIN

Eurasia, Europe, N Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of very wet soils, intolerant of drought.



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NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arundo-donax/>