

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 assessed

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.

FEATURES

Clump-forming bamboo-like grass to 8 m. Root mass dense, rhizomes short. Stems hollow, erect, becoming semi-lax, woody. Leaves alternate, 30-90 x 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



Dome Valley. Jul 2006. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Dome Valley. Jul 2006. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of very wet soils, intolerant of drought.

MORE INFORMATION

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