



WANTED

GIANT REED

Arundo donax

Glossary

Inflorescence

The arrangement of the flowers and flower axes.

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

Rhizomes

A creeping stem, usually below ground from which new aerial shoots arise.

For More Information

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In partnership with

Introduction

Often incorrectly called Bamboo, Giant Reed is a versatile plant which, in other parts of the world, has been used for a variety of purposes, including: building materials, musical instruments and even food.

In Australia, the species was introduced as an ornamental plant.

It is now a garden escapee around old settlements, along watercourses and moist areas, roadsides, creeklines, wetlands and wastelands. Very common around Perth region.

Origin

Southern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Asia.

Lifeform

Woody perennial grass.

Description

A robust bamboo-like rhizomatous perennial; up to 6 m tall.

Leaves: The leaves are evenly spaced along the stem in two rows.

Flowers: Yellow/brown/purple inflorescence; fluffy; dense and erect; up to 60 cm long.

Reproduction & Dispersal

Reproduces by dividing clumps, rhizomes or by cutting from stems, which are dispersed by water, wind and birds.

Does not usually seed in Australia.

Growing Habit

Propagation is very efficient and forms suckering clones. Found along rivers and stream banks, it will form large, almost impenetrable clumps.

Established infestations will have well developed underground rhizomes.

These will reshoot if not removed.

Growing from seed and rootstock, if left uncontrolled, it will double its size every two or three years.

Resprouts after fire.

Distribution

Coastal areas: Halls Creek, Karratha - Albany; clustered populations around Perth.

Growing Season

Grows in warmer months; Spring-Autumn.

Flowering Season

Summer; March - June.

Effect on Ecosystem

It is common to wetlands, creeklines and smothers waterways.

Control

The removal of the species is difficult because they are generally found in water courses, creek beds and storm water outlets, where accessibility is often difficult.

Manual Removal

The complete root system must be removed if attempted.

Chemical Treatment

Herbicide control can be difficult. It is recommended that old stems be cut off, and the resulting regrowth treated with a suitable herbicide.

Slash stems close to ground and paint with neat glyphosate, carefully spot spraying when regrowth reaches near 1 m tall with 1 %glyphosate.

May require multiple treatments.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals.

