



## Guidelines for Removing Arundo

### 1. Know how to identify Arundo:

Arundo is a tall grass called giant reed or *Arundo donax* and looks similar to bamboo.

### 2. Select manageable plants to remove:

Small & medium plants (<25 stalks) will be easiest for individuals to remove with hand tools. Larger plants may require mechanized equipment.

*(Image to right is feasible to remove with hand tools)*

### 3. Work in teams:

One person can dig out rhizomes, while the other person cuts stalks and rhizomes. Digging is hard work so you may want to trade off.

### 3. Equipment check list:

- Pick and/or polaski
- Work gloves
- Large pruning shears
- Food, water, sunscreen, cell phone, etc.

### 4. Removal steps:

- Cut down tall stalks & pile away from plant.
- Dig around entire plant to expose the extent of the underground root (rhizomes).
- Remove **all** rhizomes including large bulbs & small roots! *(It is very important that you get all rhizomes because this is how Arundo proliferates!)*
- Cut rhizomes into smaller pieces and put into black garbage bags. *(Only fill bags as heavy as you can carry!)*
- Drag stalks to a road and stack them horizontally, even at the cut end.
- Cut stalks in half and bundle with twine. *(This makes it easier for stalks to be hauled away)*
- Leave trash bags full of rhizomes next to a trash can.
- Leave Arundo stalks near trash cans, off of road, but not on trails.

### 5. Record removal efforts:

Report the number of trash bags and stalk bundles to the event coordinator.

### 6. Spread the word:

If people are curious about what you're doing, tell them what you're doing and why! You can give them the Southwest Hydrology article on Arundo and/or mention some important facts:

- Arundo is invasive & non-native; it was imported from the Mediterranean and planted along Los Angeles area canals for erosion control.
- It can grow up to 3 inches per day.
- It obstructs flood flows, causing even greater flooding problems.
- It can consume 3 times the water & provides poor habitat compared to native vegetation.



Judy Kempf cutting away stalks before she digs out rhizomes.



Arundo stalks bundled and tied up after they have been cut in half.

Thanks for your help in restoring our native habitats!