Giant cane

anunculoide

Vdroco

 Classification

 Order
 Poales

 Family
 Poaceae

 Genus
 Arundo

 Species
 Arundo donax (L. 1753)

Originated in Asia. Introduced probably during the Roman period. Grown for numerous uses, notably for musical instruments (clarinets, saxophones, oboes, etc.), reed pens, reed fencing, baskets, landscaping (windbreaks), bio-energy.

## Description

A perennial, ligneous cane (grass), producing rhizomes, can reach a height of five to six metres and has a life span of over ten years

Erect plant with many leaves, growing in dense stands

Hollow, woody stalk, 2-3 cm in diameter, regular distances between leaf nodes, appearance similar to bamboo

Fibrous taproots, rhizomes near the soil surface

Alternating leaves, parallel but on opposite sides, deciduous but long lasting, blue-green in colour, ribbon-like and flat with rough edges 2-8 cm in width, very short ligules with long hairs

■ Flowers arranged in erect panicles, oblong-thyrse shaped, pinkish-white in colour, on the upper section of the stalk, 30 to 70 cm long

Fruit arranged in ears of two to five flowers, often three, approximately 12 mm long

## **E**cology and reproduction

The plant flowers from September to October

For optimal growth, the plant requires direct light and high temperatures
 Preferred habitats include wetlands, reed beds, riparian zones, ditches, roadsides, idle land, sandy soil along coasts. This very rustic plant can grow in poor soil and disturbed areas

Exclusively asexual multiplication via the stalk and the rhizomes. High percentage of new sprouts from cuttings and rhizome fragments

## Documentation

- Fried G., 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.
- N.Mauric. Arundo donax Canne de Provence, 2000.

Available on-line at: http://nature.jardin.free.fr/vivace/mc\_arundo\_donax.htm Concept.Cours.d'EAU. Arundo donax, 2013.

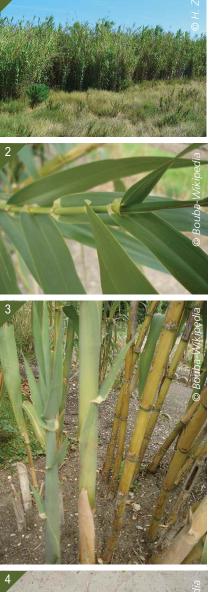
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Riparian plants