

WEED OF THE WEEK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY KAUA'I COMMUNITY RADIO & KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

WEEK ELEVEN, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

ARUNDO/GIANT REED

Arundo donax



www.invasive.org

Description: Clumping grass that grows up to 20 feet tall & looks similar to sugarcane but with shorter leaves that are alternating along the stem, which has bamboo-like nodes.

Native Range: India

Distribution: Large infestations on Big Island, smaller populations found on Kaua'i, mainly on the west side.

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 12 HIGH RISK in the Pacific

INVASIVE INFO

- On DOFAW's list of Hawai'i's **Most Invasive Horticultural Plants** to avoid planting
- On the state of Hawai'i's **NOXIOUS WEED LIST**
- **Invades coastal zones & critical watershed areas** like rivers, wetlands, streams, & ditch channels, clogging them up & causing floods
- **Displaces native** vegetation & wildlife habitat
- **Fire hazard** when it is dry
- **Can spread downstream** by stem & root fragments & forms massive stands by rhizomes
- Can be easily **spread by plant pieces in the top soil** moved by heavy machinery
- Grows super fast= up to **2.3 feet every week!**
- Has been very **invasive in Florida & California** & many groups oppose planting it as a biofuel

NOT ALL GREEN IS GOOD.

Planting invasive biofuels decreases the sustainability of our environment.

Together, we can choose our energy more wisely this time & without weeds!

FUELING THE FUTURE CONSCIOUSLY.