

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Pest Risk Assessment Unit (PHRA)

9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions – Weed Risk Assessment Workshop

Perth, Australia

Ken Allison and Karen Castro, PHRA





Outline

Introduction and background

⇒International and national (CFIA) context

Plant Health Risk Assessments

Definitions and terms

Example of a CFIA weed risk assesment

⇒Giant reed (*Arundo donax* L.)







International Context

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Countries:

- ⇒Can set their own standards
- ⇒Should use international standards, guidelines
- ⇒Must base their phytosanitary measures on science

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

- ⇒Prevent spread & introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and promote appropriate measures for control
- ⇒Canada signatory since 1951





International Context

Standards for Pest Risk Analysis

- ⇒ISPM No. 2: Framework for Pest Risk Analysis (1995)
- ⇒ISPM No. 11: Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests, including Analysis of Environmental Risks and Living Modified Organisms (2004)
- ⇒ISPM No. 3: Guidelines for the export, shipment, and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms (2005)
- ⇒ISPM No. 21: Pest risk analysis for regulated nonquarantine pests (2004)

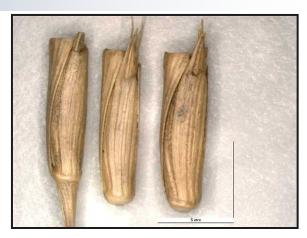




National Context

CFIA Mandate

- ⇒ Plant Health and Protection
- ⇒Animal Health and Protection
- ⇒ Food Safety
- ⇒Inspection



Aegilops cylindrica Host

Regulations within the CFIA

⇒ Plant Protection Act

⇒ To protect plant life and the agricultural and forestry sectors of the Canadian economy by preventing the importation, exportation and spread of pests and by controlling or eradicating pests in Canada

⇒ Seeds Act

⇒ An Act respecting the testing, inspection, quality and sale of seeds











Risk Assessment - CFIA

Science Branch
Science Strategies Directorate
Science Advice Division

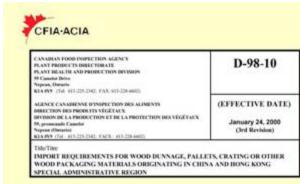


Plant Health Risk Assessment Unit (PHRA)

Risk Management - CFIA

Programs Branch
Plant Products Directorate
Plant Health Division

- Invasive Alien Species Section
- Horticulture Section
- Forestry Section
- Grains and Field Crops Section
- Other sections







PHRA - Risk Assessors





Pest Risk Assessment - Definition

Evaluation of the probability of the introduction and spread of a pest and of the associated potential economic consequences

(ISPM No. 5: Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (2006))

Purpose

- ⇒ To determine if a pest is a quarantine pest
- ⇒ To characterize the risks associated with sp. ___ introduction of a pest in terms of likelihood and impact
- ⇒ To present technical information in a way that it can be used to make regulatory decisions





Pest Risk Assessment - PHRA

Qualitative approach which attempts to estimate:

Likelihood of introduction Consequences of introduction

- ⇒ Potential for establishment and spread
- Potential economic and environmental impacts



Echium vulgare L. Photo by E. Snyder

Risk = likelihood X consequences

Risk expressed as "high", "medium", "low"

Final report is a researched & reviewed document





Plant Health Risk Assessments

2 types of PRAs:

1. Pest-specific PRA

- ⇒Pest interception/detection
- ⇒Outbreaks in foreign area
- ⇒Import policy review
- ⇒Pest alert
- Import restrictions from a trading partner
- ⇒Pest status





Plant Health Risk Assessments

2. Commodity PRA

- ⇒Importation of a new plant or plant product
- ⇒Importation of a commodity from a new source
- ⇒Import policy review
- ⇒New treatment of process
- Interception of pests on a previously unsuspected commodity
- Change in pest characteristic(s)
- Change in host susceptibility



Commodity Risk Assessment - Outline

STAGE 1

Initiating the process

- ⇒ Reason for the PRA
- ⇒ Description of pathway or commodity
- Weediness potential of the commodity itself
- ⇒ Quarantine pests associated (?) with commodity

STAGE 2

Risk assessments for pests identified in Stage 1 (including pest fact sheets)

STAGE 3

⇒ Risk management





Commodity Risk Assessment

- ⇒Pest tables by category (e.g., bacteria, fungi, etc.)
- ⇒Potential quarantine pest to Canada?

TABLE 2: Bacteria Potentially Associated with Strawberry Plants from		
Argentina		

Argentina					
PEST NAME	OCCURRENCE IN CANADA	QUARANTINE PEST by FAO DEFINITION	BACKGROUND INFORMATION		
Agrobacterium tumefaciens (Smith & Towns.) Conn.	+		Worldwide on many hosts, including <i>Fragaria</i> ; present in Argentina (Bradbury, 1986).		
Pseudomonas syringae pv. syringae van Hall	+		Worldwide on many hosts including <i>Fragaria</i> ; present in Argentina (Bradbury, 1986).		
Xanthomonas fragariae Kennedy & King	+		Alippi <i>et al.</i> , (1989); Alippi <i>et al.</i> , (1989) report the presence of the bacterium on <i>Fragaria</i> in Argentina; see PHRA facts		

Commodity Risk Assessment

⇒Summary table

Viruses

Table 1: Regulated and Quarantine Pests Potentially Associated with <i>Fragaria</i> Plant from Argentina.					
Quarantine Pest	Status in Canada	Regulations	PRA Information		
Fungi					
Fusarium oxysporum f.s.p. fragariae	Absent	No specific policy.	"HIGH" entry potential but overall "LOW" impact rating; see pest-specific PRA and pest fact sheet.		
Rosellinia necatrix	Absent	Regulated on <i>Vitis</i> imports (D-94-34) but many hosts are not specifically regulated.	Fruit tree/grapevine review, 1992-93; Pest Facts Sheet (O drive), <i>Quercus</i> PRA # 97-51.		



Commodity Risk Assessment

Technical Options for Risk Management Considerations

SAFEGUARD	EFFECTIVE AGAINST	COMMENTS
CERTIFICATION	Any number of pests, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, etc	Information on strawberry certification programs in Argentina were not available to the authors. Information on pests and diseases of strawberry in Argentina as well as details on any certification programs should be requested to reduce uncertainty associated with this commodity pathway.
TISSUE CULTURE	Soil-borne pests such (e.g., nematodes).	Plants in tissue culture should be able to be certified free from ectoparasitic nematodes and most soil-borne fungi. Freedom from other pests like viruses would require a detailed review of production practices, test methods, with verification by inspection, sampling, audits, etc.
AREA/PERIOD FREEDOM	Named pests	Surveillance data will be required to substantiate any claims of area freedom; some pathogens could be symptomless so indexing or serological test methods may be necessary.
FUMIGATION	Soil-borne pests such as Fusarium oxysporum f.s.p. fragariae.	Soil fumigation with certain products has been effective in reducing the levels of soil-borne inoculum of <i>Fusarium</i> oxysporum as well as certain nematodes.

Some Recent Commodity PRAs

06-51: Bumble bees from Mexico

07-06 : Niger seed (Guizotia abyssinica)

07-08: Fresh strawberries from Israel

07-10: Rosa from China

07-25: Bulbs from the Netherlands

07-27: Drying process for pine cones









Pest-Specific Risk Assessment - Outline

STAGE 1:

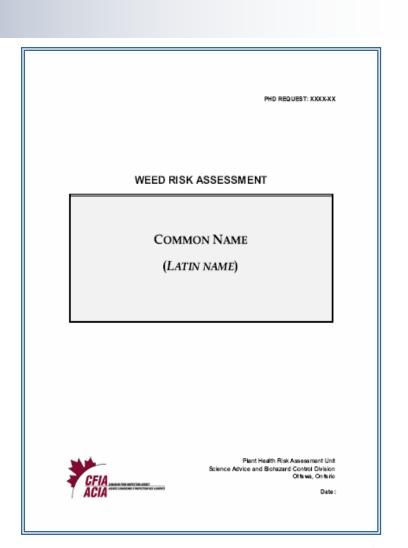
Initiating the process

STAGE 2:

Pest Fact Sheet

STAGE 3:

Pest Risk Assessment



Pest Risk Assessment - PHRA botanists

1980s- 1990s	Risk assessment on insects and pathogens associated with commodities	Development of risk assessment format
2000	First botanist joined PHRA Unit (Claire Wilson)	00-42a Cabomba caroliniana (Fanwort) 00-42b Trapa natans (European water-chestnut)
	First weed risk assessments	
2001		01-42 Eriochloa villosa (Woolly cupgrass)
2005		05-19 Rottboellia cochinchinensis (Itch grass)
2006	Three additional botanists	06-06 Nassella trichotoma (Serrated tussock)
	joined PHRA Unit (Ken Allison,	06-07 Crupina vulgaris (Common crupina)
	Karen Castro, Eric Snyder)	06-08 Halogeton glomeratus (Salt-lover)
		06-12 Arundo donax (Giant reed)
	Increased capacity for weed	06-29 <i>Tamarix</i> sp. (Saltcedar)
	risk assessments	06-30 Soliva sessilis (Carpet burweed)
		06-31 Aegilops cylindrica (Jointed goat grass)
		06-33 Nymphoides peltata (Yellow floating heart)
		06-54 Persicaria perfoliata (Mile-a-minute weed)
		06-55 Miscanthus spp.
		06-63 Wollemia nobilis (Wollemi pine)
		06-65 Cordyline spp.
2007	Senior botanist joined PHRA	07-06 Guizotia abyssinica (Niger seed)
	Unit (Andrea Sissons, senior	07-14 Didymosphenia geminata
	botanist)	07-28 Cuphea viscossima X C. lanceolata
		07-29 Calendula officinalis (Pot marigold)
		07-30 Echium plantagineum (Paterson's curse)
		07-34 Pistia stratiotes (Water lettuce)
		07-35 Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)



Stage 1: Initiating the Process

Identify reason for PRA:

- New pest identified at home or abroad
- ⇒ New biological / economic information
- ⇒ Request to import a new commodity/commodity from new source
- ⇒ Interception

Background information Identify PRA area Review previous PRAs





Stage 1: Initiating the Process Arundo donax (Giant reed)

Reason for PRA

⇒Request to import for pulp and paper production trials

Background information

- ⇒Tall, perennial grass with wide subtropical and warm temperate distribution
- ⇒Highly invasive in some countries where introduced, especially in riparian areas and wetlands
- ⇒Forms dense monocultures, excluding native species
- ⇒ Variegated variety is a popular ornamental plant
- ⇒Also used for reed-making, thatch for roofing, biofuel

Identify PRA area

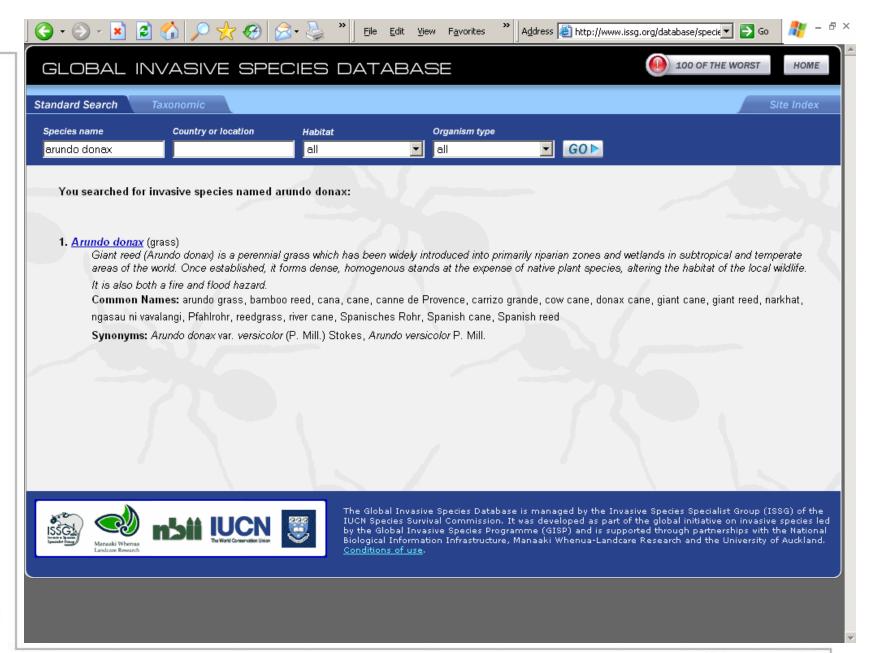
⇒All of Canada

No previous PRA











Stage 2: Weed Fact Sheet

Identity (names, taxonomy)
Geographical Distribution

- ⇒Origin and history of introductions
- ⇒Country / regional reports

Habitat

Field Recognition / Morphology

Biology / Life Cycle

Means of Movement and Dispersal

Pest Significance

- ⇒Economic impacts
- ⇒Environmental impacts
- ⇒Control / Management



Image by O. Wilhelm Tome, Available from Kurt Stüber's Online Library



World distribution of giant reed (CABI, 2005)







Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Likelihood of Introduction

- ⇒Potential pathways
- ⇒Prevalence of pest in area of origin
- ⇒Likelihood of association with commodity



- Likelihood of survival in transit
- Likelihood of surviving physanitary procedures
- ⇒ Ease of detection at entry inspection
- ⇒ Intended end-use of commodity









Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Likelihood of Introduction (Giant reed)

If the primary pathway is intentional importation of plants for planting, likelihood of introduction rated 'HIGH'

Already present in Canada

- Available in nurseries and garden centers in British
- Columbia and Ontario
- Specimens grown in botanical gardens



No further discussion necessary



Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Likelihood of Introduction (Giant reed)

RATING GUIDELINES

NEGLIGIBLE: Likelihood of introduction is extremely low given the combination of factors necessary for introduction

LOW: Likelihood is low but clearly possible

MEDIUM: Pest introduction is likely

HIGH: Pest introduction is very likely or certain





ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL

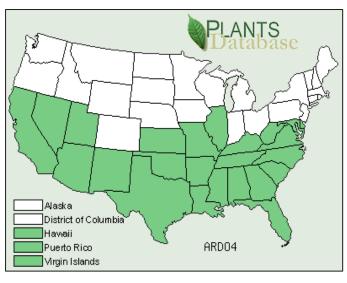
- Climatic suitability in PRA area
- ⇒Abundance of suitable habitats
- ⇒Potential range in PRA area
- ⇒ Potential for adaptation
- Cultural practices and control measures





ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL (Giant reed)

- ⇒Subtropical to warm temperate species
- ⇒Northern climatic limits unknown
- ⇒Has overwintered in WA, southern ON, and southern BC
- ⇒At least borderline hardy to Canada Plant Hardiness Zone 5

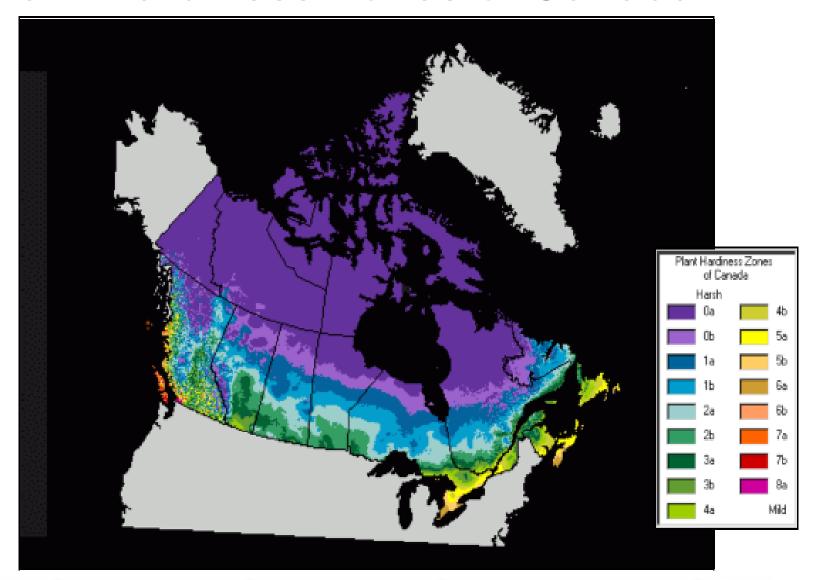


Distribution of giant reed in the US (USDA-NRCS, 2006)





Plant Hardiness Zones of Canada





RATING GUIDELINES – Establishment potential

NEGLIGIBLE: Pest has no potential to survive and become established

LOW: Pest could survive and become established in 1-3 Plant Hardiness Zones or 1/3 of PRA area

MEDIUM: 4-5 Plant Hardiness Zones or 1/3-2/3 of PRA area

HIGH: 5+ Plant Hardiness Zones or most to all of the PRA area



SPREAD POTENTIAL

- ⇒Biology of weed
- ⇒Environmental versatility
- ⇒Suitability of environments for dispersal
- History of introductions
- Potential hybridization
- Human-mediated dispersal



Arundo donax var. versicolor in Adelaide Botanic Garden. Photo by K. Castro



SPREAD POTENTIAL (Giant reed)

- Vegetative spread by rhizomes and stem pieces
 - ⇒Rhizome expansion
 - ⇒Water-mediated dispersal of fragments
- Does not produce viable seed
- Dispersal potential in upland areas is low
- ⇒Post-disturbance dispersal potential in riparian areas and wetlands is greater





RATING GUIDELINES – Natural spread potential

- ⇒NEGLIGIBLE: Pest has no potential for natural spread
- ⇒LOW: Potential for spread locally within a year (some reproductive potential and/or some mobility of propagules)
- ⇒MEDIUM: Potential for spread throughout a physiographical region within a year (high reproductive potential OR highly mobile propagules)
- ⇒HIGH: Rapid natural spread throughout potential range (high reproductive potential AND highly mobile propagules)







POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Reduced crop yield / commodity quality
- ⇒Lower commodity value
- ⇒Loss of markets
- Capacity to vector other plant pests
- Cost of control





POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT (Giant reed)

- ⇒Unintentional introduction of the European corn borer (Ostrinia nubilalis Hübner) into BC
- ⇒ Economic losses from water-related industries
 - ⇒Recreational boating
- ⇒ Hydroelectric power generation

⇒ Tourism

Wild rice production

⇒Irrigation











⇒Potential economic benefits of the species?



RATING GUIDELINES – Economic impact

- ⇒ Negligible: No potential economic impact
- ⇒Low: Limited potential (e.g. causes one of the listed impacts)
- ⇒Medium: Moderate potential (e.g. causes two listed impacts, or one over a wide range of plants/products/animals)
- ⇒ High: Significant potential (e.g. all of the listed impacts, or any two on a wide range)

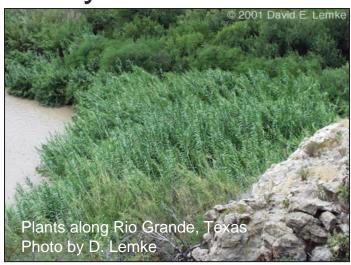




Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Consequences of Introduction

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- ⇒Impacts on ecosystem processes
- ⇒Impacts on natural community composition
- ⇒Impacts on natural community structure
- ⇒ Impacts on human / animal health
- Sociological impacts
- Impacts of associated control programs





Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Consequences of Introduction

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (Giant reed)

- ⇒ High water use
- ⇒Interference with floodwater control
- Constricts irrigational canals and ditches
- ⇒ Reduced water quality for aquatic animals
- ⇒ Reduced biodiversity (flora AND fauna)
- Changes in canopy structure along streams
- ⇒Increased fire hazard
- Reduced recreation and aesthetic value







Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Consequences of Introduction

RATING GUIDELINES – Environmental impact

- ⇒ Negligible: No potential environmental impact
- ⇒Low: Limited potential (e.g. causes one of the listed impacts)
- Medium: Moderate potential (e.g. causes two listed impacts)
- ⇒High: Potential to cause major damage (e.g. 3+ listed impacts OR affects threatened or endangered species)



Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Calculation of Risk (Giant reed)

Likelihood of Introduction = HIGH (3)

Assign Scores: Negligible (0) Low (1) Medium (2) High (3)

Consequences of Introduction =

- ⇒Establishment Potential Medium (2)
- ⇒Natural Spread Potential Low (1)
- ⇒Potential Economic Impact Medium (2)
- ⇒ Potential Environmental Impact High (3)

MEDIUM (8)



Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Calculation of Risk (Giant reed)

Cumulative Scores Establishment Potential + Spread Potential + Economic Impact + Environmental Impact	Rating for Overall Consequences of Introduction	NumericalScore for Consequences of Introduction
0 - 2	NEGLIGIBLE	0
3 - 6	LOW	1
7 - 10	MEDIUM	2
11 - 12	HIGH	3



Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Calculation of Risk

Multiply Scores:

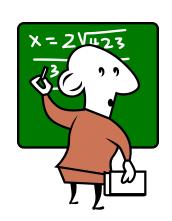
Likelihood of Introduction X Consequences of Introduction

Example: HIGH (3) X MEDIUM (2) = 6

Convert back to words:

Negligible (0); Low (1-3); Medium (4-6); High (9)

Example: MEDIUM (6)





Stage 3: Pest Risk Assessment Interpretation of Overall Risk Rating

- ⇒Negligible: No specific phytosanitary measures are necessary.
- ⇒Low: No specific phytosanitary measures may be necessary. Existing practices are expected to provide sufficient phytosanitary security.
- ⇒Medium: Specific phytosanitary measures may be necessary.
- ⇒ High: Specific phytosanitary measures are strongly recommended.







Risk Management Document



Purpose: To seek stakeholder input, inform stakeholders, or record a risk management decision

- 1.0 Risk Assessment Summary
- 2.0 Risk Management Considerations

Level of Uncertainty

Values at Risk

Government or CFIA Priorities

3.0 Pest Risk Management Options

Risks and Consequences

Cost-benefit analysis

Feasibility

4.0 Risk Management Decision





Next Steps

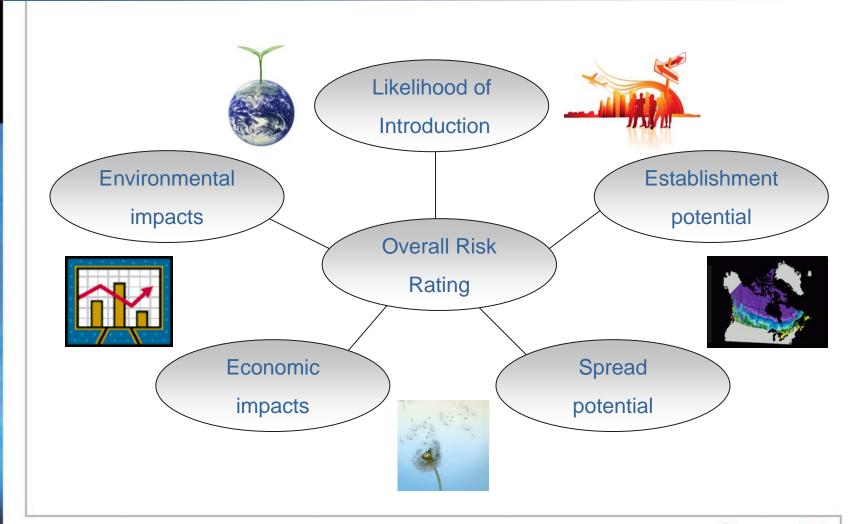


Photo credits

- ⇒ Ken Allison, Plant Health Risk Assessment Unit, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- ⇒ CABI (Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International), 2005. Crop Protection Compendium. http://www.cabi.org/compendia/cpc/index.htm
- ⇒ Karen Castro, Plant Health Risk Assessment Unit, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- ⇒ Stephen Darbyshire, Eastern Cereals and Oilseeds Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ⇒ Csongrádi Forrás, Online photo of Arundo donax. Availabe at http://www.forras2000.hu/node/19
- ⇒ John Goolsby, USDA-ARS, Biological Control of Weeds, Wesalco, Texas
- ⇒ David Lemke, The Southwest Texas State University Dept of Biology Herbarium. http://www.csdl.tamu.edu/FLORA/imaxxpoa.htm
- ⇒ NRC, AAFC (Natural Resources Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), 2000. Plant Hardiness Zones, Canada (map). http://nlwis-snite1.agr.gc.ca/plant00/index.phtml
- ⇒ Eric Snyder, Plant Health Risk Assessment Unit, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
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 http://caliban.mpizkoeln.mpg.de/~stueber/thome/band1/tafel_066.html
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