

**PEST
ALERT**

Giant Reed

Please Call 553-5236



John M. Randall, photographer,
The Nature Conservancy.



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Leaf sheaths,
John M.
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What is it?

- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) is a tall, sugar cane-like grass that is invading Hawaii.
- Hollow internodes up to 4 inches in diameter.
- The blades are 1-2 inches wide and a foot long.
- It has many flowers on 2-foot long, dense, plume-like inflorescence (see drawing).
- This plant grows rapidly to over 20 feet in height and spreads quickly. It forms large, continuous root masses.
- Giant reed grows in a wide variety of conditions, including moist areas.

Why is it a problem in Hawaii?

- It spreads quickly by root pieces in dirt or waterways.
- **Giant reed traps sediments and blocks stream flow, leading to erosion and flooding.**
- Once established, giant reed forms dense stands that choke out native plants and can alter waterbird habitat.
- It **catches fire easily**, spreading wildfires that threaten homes and property.

What is MoMISC doing?

- The Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee is a multi-sector partnership fighting to protect Molokai from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- MoMISC prevents new invasive species from becoming established on Molokai through education and outreach.
- MoMISC works with the community to control invasive species on private and public property.

What can you do?

- Do not grow giant reed.
- Learn to identify invasive species in the MoMISC brochure.
- Call MoMISC at 553-5236 if you see giant reed anywhere on Molokai.
- Grow native plants instead of non-native plants. Encourage your friends to do the same.
- Before purchasing a plant, check if it is invasive. You can ask your nursery, call MoMISC for assistance, or check <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hortweeds/specieslist.htm>
- For more information, visit our website, <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>