



# Giant Reed Grass

*Arundo donax*

## About me:

I am a tall cane with long green leaves. I can grow up to 6 meters (20ft). I don't produce seeds as I reproduce asexually just like strawberries. I prefer growing in moist, well drained soils and can tolerate slightly saline soils. My preferred climate is warm and dry summers followed by mild winters (temperate).

**Where do I come from?** My native distribution spans from Mediterranean basin to the S.E Asia and parts of Africa

## How is the bio-fuel produced?

The canes are manually harvested and taken to a bio-refinery. The canes are then crushed in order to release all the sugars. This is used to make bio-ethanol via hydrolysis where the biomass is broken down further removing the lignin and any other impurities. The remaining sugars are then fermented with yeast. This is then distilled to remove any excess water to form bio-ethanol.

## How is my energy used?

Transport fuel: the bio-ethanol can be used in hybrid cars which have been adapted or in a mix with diesel for diesel engines.



Image by Matt Lavin (2013) New Mexico USA



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Image by Harry Rose (2010) South Wales Australia

