



There are a lot of similarities between *Arundo donax* and species that are currently problematic invasive weeds, and it would behoove us to learn from our past mistakes in order to not repeat them.

EPA is currently proposing to incentivize the planting of *Arundo donax* for biofuels production. In the 1930s, the USDA Soil Conservation Service actually paid farmers \$8/acre to plant kudzu. \$8/acre in the 1930's is equivalent to about \$120/acre today. Also, the Civilian Conservation Corp planted 73 million Kudzu seedlings during the 1930's.

By the 1950's they realized kudzu was weed problem and removed it from the list of recommended cover crops, then started spending money to research how to eradicate it, where it was eventually listed as a noxious weed.

Most weed scientists I talk to today are strongly opposed to *Arundo* as a biofuel and feel that we would end up in the same situation with *Arundo*, if the government incentivized its planting.

EPA should ask themselves if they want to make the same mistake USDA made 75 years ago???

The amount of money spent today trying to control and eradicate kudzu is miniscule to any benefits kudzu provided back in the 1930's and 40's.

USDA made this same mistake several times. During the 1930's they also incentivized the planting of Tamarisk and Russian Olive for erosion control and stream bank stabilization. Within a couple decades, the exotic plants were rapidly spreading up- and downstream forming dense monotypic thickets. Today, millions of dollars have been spent in the 17 western states trying to take back their riparian areas from the stranglehold of these two species.

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