

## **“RABOGATO”, AN EXOTIC INVASIVE SPECIES WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

**Exotic plants** are those that are not found naturally in a given territory, as they have been introduced voluntarily or unvoluntarily by human activity. Many exotic species don't pose a threat for the environment while others are considered **“invasive”** due to their rapid spread, supplanting the indigenous flora and related fauna.

This presents a serious problem and it is one of the main reasons for the loss of biodiversity on our planet. Moreover, it leads to further problems e.g. in agriculture, changes in the landscape as well as costs to eradicate them.



**“Rabogato”** (*Pennisetum setaceum*), also known as crimson fountain grass, is a clear example of an invasive species that is spreading in many places of the world. On the Canary Islands it is one of the most widely spread invasive species and it is bringing about

## **DANGER FOR OUR ECOSYSTEM AND ITS BIODIVERSITY**

## **THE COLLECTIVE SINRABOGATO WHO ARE WE?**

We are a group of people concerned about the problem which the spread of “Rabogato” (crimson fountain grass) is causing on La Palma. We decided to meet up in order to help with the control of the plant population in various zones of the island.

We are working voluntarily and not for profit with the objective to motivate and promote the collaboration between neighbourhoods, social organisations and a deeper involvement of public institutions.

## **GET INFORMED ABOUT THE NEXT VOLUNTARY ACTIONS!**



Sinrabogato La Palma



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Thank you for helping pass on this information  
and for sharing this brochure

# **COLLECTIVE SINRABOGATO**

**LA PALMA**



## **Join us to control “rabogato”**

## **Guideline to eradicate it**



**“RABOGATO” IN LA PALMA**, has become a serious problem for the environment. Native to Africa, it is changing our landscape and displacing our fauna.

It adapts and spreads very quickly. Besides, it seeds at such speed that it has become an environmental threat.

## What you mustn't do !

### Never burn it:

Fire stimulates the growth and germination of the seeds.

### Don't throw it into the rubbish:

This causes the contamination of further zones.

### Do not use a strimmer, a leaf blower or any other mechanical tools:

This is contributing to its spread.

### Don't use poison:

It won't destroy the plant and causes the contamination of the soil.

### Don't use it to compost:

It contributes to its spread.

The elimination of this species doesn't require an authorisation but any action of control should be realized following this guideline and the technical guidelines according to the order of 13 June 2014 (BOC nº 120, from 24 June 2014).

1

Cut the spikes and deposit them carefully in a paper bag in order to prevent its spread. Don't use plastic bags because they can break easily and spread the seeds.



2

Extract the plant with a digger and make sure that no sprout is left that could shoot up.



3

If possible, collect all the remaining seeds from the ground and deposit them in the bag as well.



4

Leave the extracted plant at the same place from where it was uprooted to prevent the spread of seeds. This way the soil is covered and leaves evidence for future controls.



5

Take the bags with the seeds to the next **PUNTOLIMPIO** –Recycling center– (Only individuals) or leave them in water for four months.

(Entities and Companies please contact the Cabildo for seed management)

6

Check the areas every 3-6 months.

# HOW TO ELIMINATE “RABOGATO”