**Identification of Bamboo Species for Trim**

There are hundreds of species of bamboo, some of which are fast growing and reach heights that will not hold compliance with state laws governing vegetation clearances and powerlines. In a bamboo control study authorized by SDG&E, we observed cane growth rates of some species in the range of 3" to 4" inches per day. With this kind of growth rate, it's possible for a newly emerging cane of a large species to encroach on a powerline within 3 months.



Bamboo causes hundreds of memos every year and has been known to cause outages as well. However, not all stands are made up of larger species such as timber bamboo that can grow to 40-50 ft. There are also small, relatively low growing species. These low growing species can be identified by small diameter canes of 1" inch or less. Smaller species can also be identified by noting the height of leafed out canes. The cane starts forming leaves once it has reached its full height. If the leafed out canes are still 15 ft below the powerline it is probably one of the smaller species and may not be in need of a trim in order to keep it in compliance.



Misidentification of smaller species of bamboo can lead to unnecessary pruning, upset customers, and trim refusals. Evaluate each stand of bamboo to determine if it is made up of a low growing species or a larger species and use your judgement when listing for trim. Smaller species that will hold compliance will not need to be trimmed. With that said, if you are still in doubt, trim it out.