

Guinea grass

Megathyrsus maximus var maximus



Guinea grass is an example of a useful fodder species that causes problems when growing in the wrong place at the wrong time. Guinea grass is a coloniser of disturbed sites, including roadsides, and particularly untended areas. This robust grass forms clumps and may foster soil erosion in invaded areas. The seeds can be easily spread on the fur of native mammals passing through an infestation of guinea grass. Continued use as a fodder grass may lead to invasion of areas inaccessible to livestock, and into native areas.

Declaration details

Guinea grass is not a declared plant under Queensland legislation. A local government may declare guinea grass under its own local law.

Description and general information

Guinea grass is a perennial species and may form quite large clumps. Commonly found at around 1.5 m tall, some individuals have been recorded at 3 m tall. The leaf blades are long, narrow and finely tipped. They have a prominent mid-rib and are approximately 1 cm wide. Seed heads are large (up to 40 cm long) and are well-spread, with a large number of fine branches. Seeds are oblong in shape and are often purple in colour.

Green panic (*Panicum maximum* var. *trichoglume*) is a closely related species that differs from guinea grass in that it has softly hairy seeds.



Management strategies

Manual control of guinea grass may require the digging out of larger clumps with a mattock or similar tool.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Table 1 Herbicides permitted for the control of guinea grass

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Handgun	glyphosate (360 g/L)	13 mL per 1 L water	Registered	Apply to actively growing plants at early head stage.
Wick wiper	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L per 2 L water	Registered	Weeds should be at least 15 cm above the desirable vegetation at the time of application.
Foliar spray	fluazifop (212 g/L)	2 L per ha	PERMIT 11463 A permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.	Spray young vegetative growth with 3 to 6 leaves per shoot when growing actively. Use up to 4 L per ha for well established infestations or where greater control is required in one season. See label for rates.
	glyphosate (360 g/L)	9 L per ha	Registered	Apply to actively growing plants at early head stage

Notes

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit read and comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions unless otherwise stated in the permit. The above permit can be used by persons generally in Queensland.

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Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.