

Molasses grass

Melinis minutiflora



Introduced from Africa, molasses grass adopts a densely smothering habit. Once established, molasses grass grows thickly from rooted runners and can exclude other species. In some Pacific countries it is regarded as a good forage grass, yet, in Australia, its weediness is undesirable. The dense mats formed by molasses grass are quite fire-resistant, with rapid regeneration from the surviving portions. Infestation may increase from the subsequent invasion of surrounding burned areas. Molasses grass is readily dispersed by wind, vehicles, animals and on clothing.

These disadvantages can be overcome by growing non-invasive species that may include Celery Wood, Leopard Ash, Native Tamarind, and Wheel of Fire.

Declaration details

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



Description and general information

Molasses grass is a spreading, perennial mat grass. Stems are branched and up to 90 cm long. Generally, the foliage is sticky and has a strong odour like that of molasses, hence the common name. Leaf blades are commonly up to 30 cm long and reddish in colour. The slender flower heads are 10–20 cm long and may be purplish in colour when young.

Management strategies

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has issued an off-label permit, PERMIT 11463, for the use of the herbicides listed below.

This use is approved only for purposes as listed.

Prospective users must read the permit, or have it read to them, prior to preparing and/or using the aforementioned herbicide in the manner prescribed.

Small infestations or individual plants may be manually chipped out with hand tools, such as hoes.

Cannot tolerate grazing or mowing.

There is no biological agent for molasses grass.

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 molasses grass

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details
Foliar spray applied by knapsack, sprinkler or boom spray only	fluazifop-P (212 g/L) e.g. Fusilade®	2 L per ha	PERMIT 11463
Spot spray	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L per 100 L water	PERMIT 11463

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.