



Guinea grass

Panicum maximum



The problem

Guinea grass is an example of a useful fodder species that causes problems when growing in the wrong place at the wrong time. It 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.

Description

This 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 the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

Declaration details

Guinea grass is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF GUINEA GRASS

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	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 7485 A DPI 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

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit 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. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.



Fact sheets are available from NRW service centres and the NRW Information Centre phone (07 3237 1435). Check our web site <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact 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 utilisation 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, the Department of Natural Resources and Water does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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