

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022

Weed Control Management Plan: African Lovegrass

Botanical Name *Eragrostis curvula* Common Names: African Lovegrass



Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective –SPECIES OF CONCERN (Whole of Region)

This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Its spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.

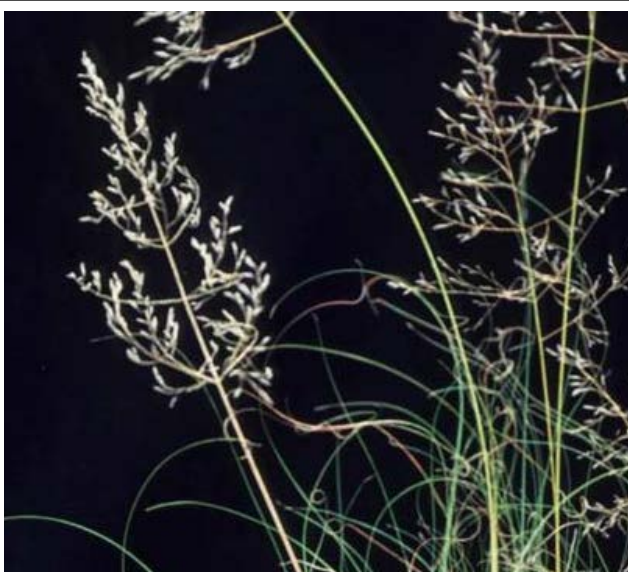
General Biosecurity Duty

All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- Land managers should prevent spread from their land, where feasible.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.



African Lovegrass

African lovegrass is a hardy, drought-tolerant grass that grows in clumps. It's a poor feed for livestock and can quickly colonise overgrazed and disturbed sites. African lovegrass is a perennial grass that grows in clumps up to 1.2 m tall.

Leaves can vary from dark green to blue-green. The leaf blade is narrow (3mm wide) and the margins are often rolled. The ligule has a ring of white hairs.

Seed: The seed head is a loose panicle (6-30cm long). Seeds germinate in autumn or spring as long as the moisture levels and temperatures are suitable. Seedlings grow slowly in the early stages but growth accelerates after the five-leaf stage. Plants cease growth during winter, but are frost hardy; they reshoot when temperatures rise in spring.

Flowering can occur from early summer and ripe seeds may be present from January to March. African lovegrass reproduces only by seed.

Every effort should be made to prevent African Lovegrass grass from becoming established in new areas.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The maximum penalty is:

- in the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- in the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area.

For Further Information:

New England Weeds Authority

129 Rusden St

Armidale NSW 2350

PH: (02) 6770 3602 www.newa.com.au

or

NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

or

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:

<https://northerntablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.