

# The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022

## Weed Control Management Plan: Coolatai Grass

Botanical Name: *Hyparrhenia hirta* Common Names: Coolatai Grass



### 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.



Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock forming perennial grass. It has become a major invasive species in northern New South Wales (NSW) and southern Queensland, dominating pastures over a range of soil types and conditions. It is also one of the few perennial grasses capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems and is a major threat to natural biodiversity in stock routes, nature reserves and National Parks. Pasture dominated by Coolatai grass can be productive, although the management requirements are higher than that commonly employed. Coolatai grass can take over new areas very quickly! It has an amazing capacity to spread. During its seeding phase, the plant produces thousands of tiny, sticky seeds which adhere readily to animals, farm machinery and motor vehicles.

Treatment with herbicides as a complete overall foliar spray is best carried out in spring and summer when plants are actively growing with good soil moisture.

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

Coolatai Grass

### **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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.