

BAHIA GRASS

Paspalum notatum

GRASSES



Origin	Americas
Description	Dense mat-forming perennial grass with a deep, strong root system. Thick, fibrous stems (to 5 mm diameter) with short internodes. Stems held flush with the soil by deep fibrous roots. Bahia has relatively low feed value, spreads relentlessly through other pasture species and is not compatible with legume species. Difficult to mow because of its dense nature.
Leaves	Leaves arise from short, upright shoots from the nodes. Leaf blades are mostly 4–8 mm wide and 20–30 cm long when mature. The leaf sheaths of the lower leaves of the shoot are usually white with a distinctive purplish coloured tinge.
Seed	The seedhead usually comprises of two 'arms' of a 'Y', borne above the foliage on erect stems about 50 cm tall. Seeds are light brown, flat on one side, rounded on the other, similar to other paspalums.
Roots	Fibrous and featherlike. In deep water trailing below the plant up to 1 m long. In shallow water the roots may take hold in the substrate of mud or sediment.
Control	Very difficult to control manually. Does not respond to glyphosate application. Apply metsulfuron-methyl at 1 g/L with surfactant.

BAHIA GRASS



Origin	Asia and tropical America
Description	Bamboos are perennial, tall, woody grasses of varying heights (2–15 m). They have hollow canes with nodes at regular intervals. There are two types of Bamboo: clumping , which grow at the one location, increasing the size of the clump, and running , which spread more rapidly and vigorously by underground runners, quickly getting out of control. Bamboos have rounded woody stems and colour varies from green and variegated to black.
Seed	Bamboos rarely if ever flower and thus do not produce seed.
Leaves	Alternate, thick, grass-like.
Control	Manual control is difficult due to vigorous root system. Digging the entire root system out is necessary, possibly using machinery. The spread of clumping and running bamboo can be controlled with an effective root barrier material. Re-growth can be sprayed with glyphosate at 20 ml/L. For the cut and paint method, each cane should be cut close to the ground, just below the first node. After cutting, use 100% glyphosate and pour into the hollow stem.

BANA GRASS – COW CANE

Pennisetum purpureum x *Pennisetum typhoides*

GRASSES



- Origin** Africa, India
- Description** Bana Grass is similar in appearance to sugar cane with pale green leaves up to 3 cm in width and can grow as high as 4m. It is densely tufted with short underground runners. In ideal conditions it can grow at a rate of up to 70 cm per week and can be very invasive.
- Seed** In cylindrical spikes, which are yellow in colour and up to 30cm long.
- Control** Control may be improved by first slashing Bana Grass. After slashing, actively growing stems can be effectively controlled with a foliar application of glyphosate at a rate of 10 ml/L. Follow-up spraying at the same rate may be needed after this initial knockdown.

BROAD-LEAF PASPALUM

Paspalum mandiocanum, formerly *wettsteinii*



Origin	South America
Description	Summer growing tufted perennial grass to 1 m high, but is generally less than 50 cm in height. Clumps are up to 1 m wide. The lower parts of the stems produce roots where they contact the ground, resulting in the radial spread of clumps. Its flowering stems can grow along the ground and are between 45–125 cm long.
Leaves	Dark green, slightly glossy and broad (>3 cm). Leaves, sheaths and nodes are all hairy.
Seed	The seed head is quite typical for the genus <i>Paspalum</i> , with 3 to 10 branches on a stem, raised 15–20 cm above the vegetative growth. Each of these stems is 3–10 cm long and has a tuft of hairs at their base. The numerous flower spikelets are borne in pairs, and are packed into four indistinct rows.
Dispersal	The seed is transported by water, animals and machinery.
Notes	Broad-leafed Paspalum is shade-tolerant and is considered an invasive weed in bush regeneration areas.
Control	Small plant numbers can be dug up and removed. Larger areas will require herbicide applications of glyphosate at 10 ml/L. When occurring together with native ground-layer species a wick wiper may be used.

COOLATAI GRASS

Hyparrhenia hirta

Declared Noxious Weed Class 3
west of the Dividing Range

GRASSES



- Origin** Africa and the Mediterranean region
- Description** Perennial, erect, tufted, to 1 m (rarely to 1.5 m) high.
- Leaves** 2–4 mm wide, leaves and stems are bluish-green, often with a whitish bloom, that can be rubbed off. Spikelets in pairs, with whitish hairs and with or without an awn 10–25 mm (rarely to 35 mm) long, the other spikelet 3–7 mm long, on a stalk and without an awn.
- Flowers** Flower head is 15–40 cm long with many paired branches, each having 5–7 awns (bristles). Flowers all year round.
- Dispersal** Spread by seed and often dispersed along roadsides. Re-grows rapidly from the crown following fire.
- Confused with** Tambookie Grass (*Hyparrhenia filipendula*), which usually has 2 awns per stem and Jaragua Grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*), which usually has reddish brown hairs on spikelets.
- Control** Spray glyphosate at 20 ml/L. Consult with local weeds officer.

Very invasive. Be alert on the coast.

26 COOLATAI GRASS



Origin	Africa
Description	Tufted, clumping perennial grass to 1.1 m high. Stem bases are strongly flattened and the leaves and stems are hard to break. Very invasive and of low nutrient value.
Leaves	Leaf blades 6–30 cm long, very tough.
Flowers	Flowers all year but mostly spring to autumn.
Seed	Seed head up to 50 cm long and 1–2 cm wide. Branches of seed head pressed to the axis and overlapping. Lower ones spread at maturity. Seed very long-lasting.
Dispersal	Seed spread by water, animals and machinery.
Confused with	Other <i>Sporobolus</i> species.
Control	Spot spray small infestations with glyphosate at 10 ml/L after cutting and bagging seedheads. Large infestations require integrated control strategies and flupropanate application. Consult with local weeds officer.

Very invasive and capable of rendering land unsuitable for grazing.

MOLASSES GRASS

Melinis minutiflora

GRASSES



Origin	Africa
Description	Spreading, perennial mat grass. Stems are branched and up to 90 cm long. Generally, the foliage is sticky and has a strong spicy odour, sometimes compared to that of molasses. Molasses Grass adopts a densely smothering habit, and once established, it grows thickly from rooted stolons/runners and can exclude other species. Flowers and germinates virtually all year.
Leaves	Leaf blades are commonly up to 30 cm long and reddish in colour, covered in fine hairs.
Flowers	The slender flower heads are 10–20 cm long and may be purplish in colour when young.
Dispersal	Dispersed by wind, machinery and livestock. Molasses Grass also spreads vegetatively by stolons. The dense mats formed by this plant cannot be controlled with fire; rapid regeneration occurs after fire from the surviving portions. Infestation may increase after fire from the subsequent invasion of surrounding burnt areas.
Control	Dig out or mow short and mulch thickly. Foliar spray with glyphosate at 10 ml/L. Molasses Grass does not persist under grazing and does not tolerate mowing.

MOLASSES GRASS



- Origin** India
- Description** Up to 1.5 m tall, palm-like foliage. Stems and leaves are covered in fine sticky hairs that can cause itchiness. Prefers moist soils (creek edges) where it can form dense mats, but may also be found growing in dry shaded areas. Established plants are relatively drought tolerant.
- Leaves** Leaf blades about 10–35 cm long, 1–5 cm wide, upper and lower surfaces clothed in long bristle-like hairs. Venation longitudinal and accentuated by longitudinal folds in the leaf blade.
- Flowers** The inflorescence is a greenish cylindrical spike that stands above the leaves on a slender, arching stalk that reaches several feet above the foliage. Inflorescence a large open panicle. Spikelets about 3 mm long.
- Dispersal** Dispersed by wind, seed fall and contaminated soil.
- Control** Dig out or foliar spray with glyphosate at 10 ml/L.

SERRATED TUSSOCK

Nassella trichotoma

Weed of National Significance
Noxious Weed Class 4 in coastal LGA's

GRASSES



- Origin** South America
- Description** Perennial grass, up to 60cm in height and 25 cm in diameter at the base of the plant. The drooping seed heads can give the plant an overall diameter of up to 75 cm.
- Leaves** Numerous thin leaves up to 50cm long from the base form a large tussock. Tightly rolled and finely serrated with white bases. Fine serrations can be felt when the finger and thumb are carefully pulled along the leaves from the tip towards the base.
- Flowers** The seed head is multi-branched, up to 35 cm long. At each junction, there are 2 or 3 branches that lead to a single seed or another set of small branches. The purple colour of seeds produces an overall purplish haze to the Serrated Tussock seed head. Flowers spring and summer.
- Roots** Extensive network of fibrous roots which exist mostly in the top 20 cm of soil. Roots are dense, wiry and fibrous, making Serrated Tussock very difficult to pull out, even when small.
- Dispersal** Mostly by wind but also by machinery and vehicles. May also be dispersed in hay and fodder, as a contaminant of wool and clothing, by water, mud and in the droppings of grazing animals.
- Confused with** Native grasses – *Poa spp.*, Wallaby Grass, Spear grass & Corkscrew Grass.
- Control** Chip out in small infestations. Fire does not kill Serrated Tussock. Spot spray with glyphosate at a rate of 10 –13 ml/L. Flupropanate is recommended for large infestations. Serrated Tussock can develop resistance to either herbicide. Consult with weeds officer.

SERRATED TUSSOCK



Buffalo

Kikuyu

Rhodes

Origin North America, Africa

Descriptions **BUFFALO**
Dark green grass with broad, flat blades. It spreads by above ground stolons, commonly known as ‘runners’ and forms a dense layer of grass.

KIKUYU
Kikuyu is a perennial ground-hugging grass which spreads by runners.

RHODES GRASS
Tufted, 1–2m tall, spreading by looping runners forming new plants along the runners (stolons) with seedheads containing mostly a single (sometimes double) circle of radiating light, greenish brown (ripening to darker brown) branches 4–15 cm long.

These grasses are considered useful lawn or pasture species which are weedy in natural areas due to their invasive qualities.

The list of weedy grasses could be much longer and exceeds the capacity of this publication.

Suffice it to say that all grasses that are not native species can be a problem in natural areas.