

Giant Parramatta Grass

What is it?

Giant Parramatta Grass is an aggressive plant that can reduce pasture productivity, and have an adverse effect on grazing animals. It is an introduced species from Africa, believed to have arrived in contaminated pasture seed. It is now widespread in the Far North Coast region and is spreading further.

Giant Parramatta Grass infestations are increasing. In most cases infestations can be traced back to stock movement or machinery. Landholders need to be aware of the potential for invasion and should be vigilant.

What does it look like?

It is a tussock forming plant, growing to 1.5 - 1.8 metres in height. Seed heads can be up to 40 cm long. The base of the stems are flat and arise from a crown that is also flat rather than circular, as is the case with most grasses. Identification can be difficult, as there are other *Sporobolus* species that are similar.

Control Measures

Herbicide control:
Scattered light infestations can be controlled by spot spray using *Glyphosate* products, with areas monitored and follow-up treatment made as required. For dense, well established infestations, pasture management with the use of Wik-Wiper applicators (larger version of the zero weed wand) to apply herbicides, followed by pasture improvement and careful stock management will assist in containing and controlling Giant Parramatta Grass. Contact your local supplier for details of registered herbicides.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Giant Parramatta Grass is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

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Giant Parramatta Grass

Sporobolus indicus var major

A Category W 2 weed in all areas. Under the Noxious Weed Act 1993, the weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.



Early detection is critical in the control of Giant Parramatta Grass, as once established it can be difficult to control.