

RECOMMENDATIONS

DON'T HAVE COOLATAI YET?

Be Aware - VIGILANCE

- Check roadsides leading to your property along which you move stock, vehicles and machinery
- Check fence and drainage lines into your property (try and trap seeds if you find Coolatai grass upstream)
- Check fodder (hay) sources
- Avoid moving stock, vehicles or machinery through infested areas onto your property
- Wash down vehicles/machinery regularly

WHEN SMALL INFESTATIONS OCCUR

Eradicate - MONITOR

- Pull out small clumps and individual plants (easier after rain), bag and burn
- Spot spray new growth from spring to autumn with glyphosate or glyphosate + flupropanate - APVMA permit PER7883. Add a wetting agent for mature clumps
- Promote new growth in mature clumps before spot spraying by brush cutting or remove heads with secateurs. If in seed, gather, bag and burn seed heads.
- Monitor site of infestation and treatment, especially from spring to autumn - respond as necessary.

EXTENSIVE INFESTATIONS

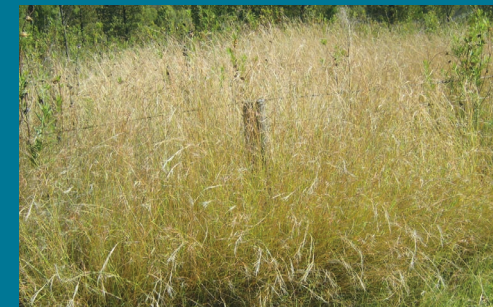
Eradications Unlikely - CONTROL

- Avoid contaminating new areas of your property
- Wash down contaminated vehicles/machinery before using in clean areas
- Contain the infestation/s (fencing, seed traps, spot spraying)
- Manage, where possible decrease paddock size, graze intensively, fertilise, slash rank growth, introduce legumes.

**WATCH FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTROL AND
ERADICATION OF COOLATAI GRASS**



For recommended rates of chemical application for control, seek advice from your local weed officer.



Further Information

Local Council Weed Control Officer

Lachlan CMA Catchment Officer Christian Wythes

Ph: 02 6385 1018

Livestock Health & Pest Authority - LHPA Officer

www.westernweeds.org or www.weeds.org.au

The Coolatai Grass Threat

This brochure has been produced
by the Lachlan CMA as part of the
Environmental Weed Management Project

Managing Weeds for Biodiversity



Together We're Making a Difference
LACHLAN CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Australian Government

Have you seen Coolatai Grass?

(*Hyparrhenia hirta*)

Noxious Weed Alert



Coolatai Grass is a highly persistent, summer growing, perennial grass weed that has been found in isolated patches within the Lachlan Catchment.



Character and Spread

Grows quickly, becomes dense, creating large amounts of unpalatable dead leaf and stem of low nutritional value, dominating and displacing other plants.

Grows and regenerates faster than most native and exotic grasses.

Produces numerous small seeds that adhere to animals, clothing, farm machinery and motor vehicles.

Seeds are dispersed along roadsides by 'wind' from passing vehicles, road works and water.

Adapted to a wide range of soil types and temperature conditions (coast, tablelands, slopes & plains).

Drought tolerant.

Resistant to many herbices and appears to increase in response to fire.

Stock will overgraze other pasture first, assisting the spread of Coolatai grass.

Threatens to reduce biodiversity, extinguish ecological communities and rare plants within its expanding range.



What is being done?

Publicity - raising public and goernment awareness of the problem/s of Coolatai Grass infestation.

Research - documenting the effects of Coolatai Grass on the environment and agricultural enterprises.

Trials - determining most effective ways to control the spread of Coolatai grass, and how to manage new and established invasions.

What can you do?

Become aware - learn to identify Coolatai Grass.

Prevent movement of seed from infested to non infested areas.

Monitor your property and roadsides for new outbreaks.

Treat infestations early and appropriately as control is costly and time consuming.

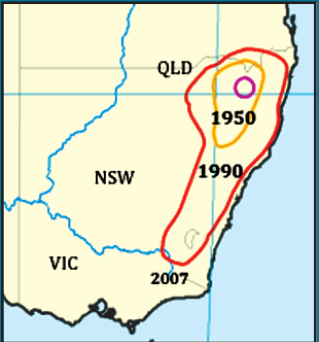
Thoroughly clean all vehicles and machinery before entering your property from infested areas.

Raise the awareness of others - family, neighbours, friends, local council, landcare groups.

Field days - attend or organize one.

History

Coolatai Grass is a native of Africa and the Mediterranean. It was introduced in the 1930's as a pasture species and has primarily spread by road works, vehicles, animals, water and wind.



Extent and spread of Coolatai Grass

Environmental Costs

Loss of plant biodiversity - dense growth and competition from Coolatai Grass results in loss of native grasses and groundcover plants. The ability of native trees and understorey plants to regenerate and replace themselves is also affected.

Loss of Native fauna - similarly, dense growth of Coolatai Grass upsets the ecological balance of native animals and insects dependent on native plants for food, shelter, and breeding habitat. Research is showing many species diminish and/or disappear, while some increase.



Economic Costs

Loss of productivity - occurs where intensive management is not possible.

Management constraints - land use costs, options and management will be influenced by Coolatai Grass management control.

Fire Hazard - dry matter bulk increases the risk and intensity of fires which can lead to loss of stock, equipment, buildings and fences.