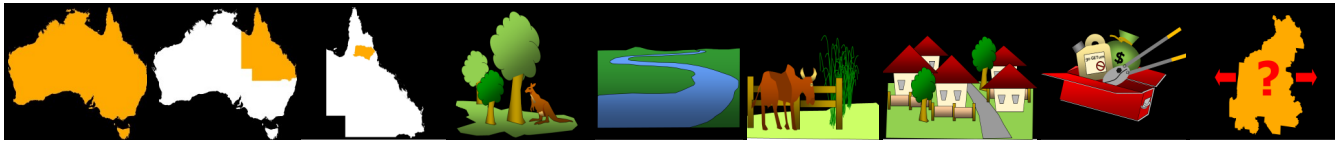


Weedy Sporobolus Grasses *Sporobolus* spp.

National priority State priority Previous local Conservation Water resources Agriculture and industry Community and residential Feasibility of control Current extent



0.0/5 1.5/5 4.0/5 4.0/5 4.0/5 5.0/5 3.0/5 2.0/5 3.0/5

Priority

Details

Description A group of robust, upright perennial grasses that grow from 60cm to 1.7m tall, the most familiar being Giant Rats Tail Grass (GRT). Flower spikes are about 40cm long and transform from a distinctive dark 'rats tail' shape to an open pyramid when mature. Leaves are narrow and tough and can be rasp like to touch.

Distribution Weedy Sporobolus Grasses are scattered across most of the Tablelands where they prefer a drier savannah climate. Multiple species and similarities to native *Sporobolus* can made identification difficult so the precise distribution in the Tablelands region remains uncertain.

Impacts The larger *Sporobolus* species can drastically outcompete desirable pastures. They are unpalatable to stock, cause major problems in overgrazed and disturbed systems, and invades creek lines and woodlands in drier savannah environments.

Key projects Remove Weedy Sporobolus Grasses from roads and areas of intensive stock fed production to prevent further spread. Individual properties should ensure best practice weed hygiene measures are in place to reduce risk of spread and actively manage fence lines and access tracks.

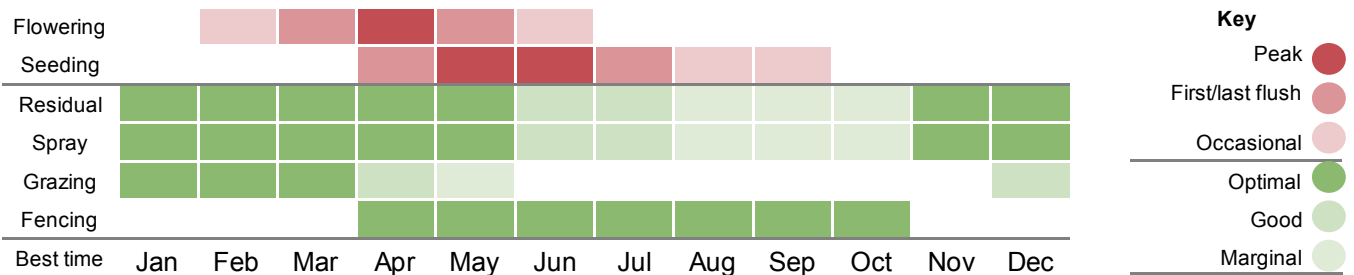
Background

Weedy Sporobolus Grasses were originally introduced as contaminants in pasture seed and have now adapted well to large areas of eastern Australia.

They have low palatability when mature, are difficult to control, can affect cattle health and productivity, outcompete desirable pasture grasses and cause significant degradation of natural areas.

Weedy Sporobolus Grasses are spread via vehicles, machinery, stock and contaminated hay. Sourcing hay and raw materials from clean sources will help to prevent accidental introduction. Monitoring roadsides and tracks during the growing season will assist in detecting new outbreaks before they establish. Spelling stock in holding paddocks prior to movement will also reduce spread into new areas.

Control calendar



For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the [Tablelands Biosecurity Plan](#) available at trc.qld.gov.au and customer service centres.

1300 362 242 (24hr Customer Service)

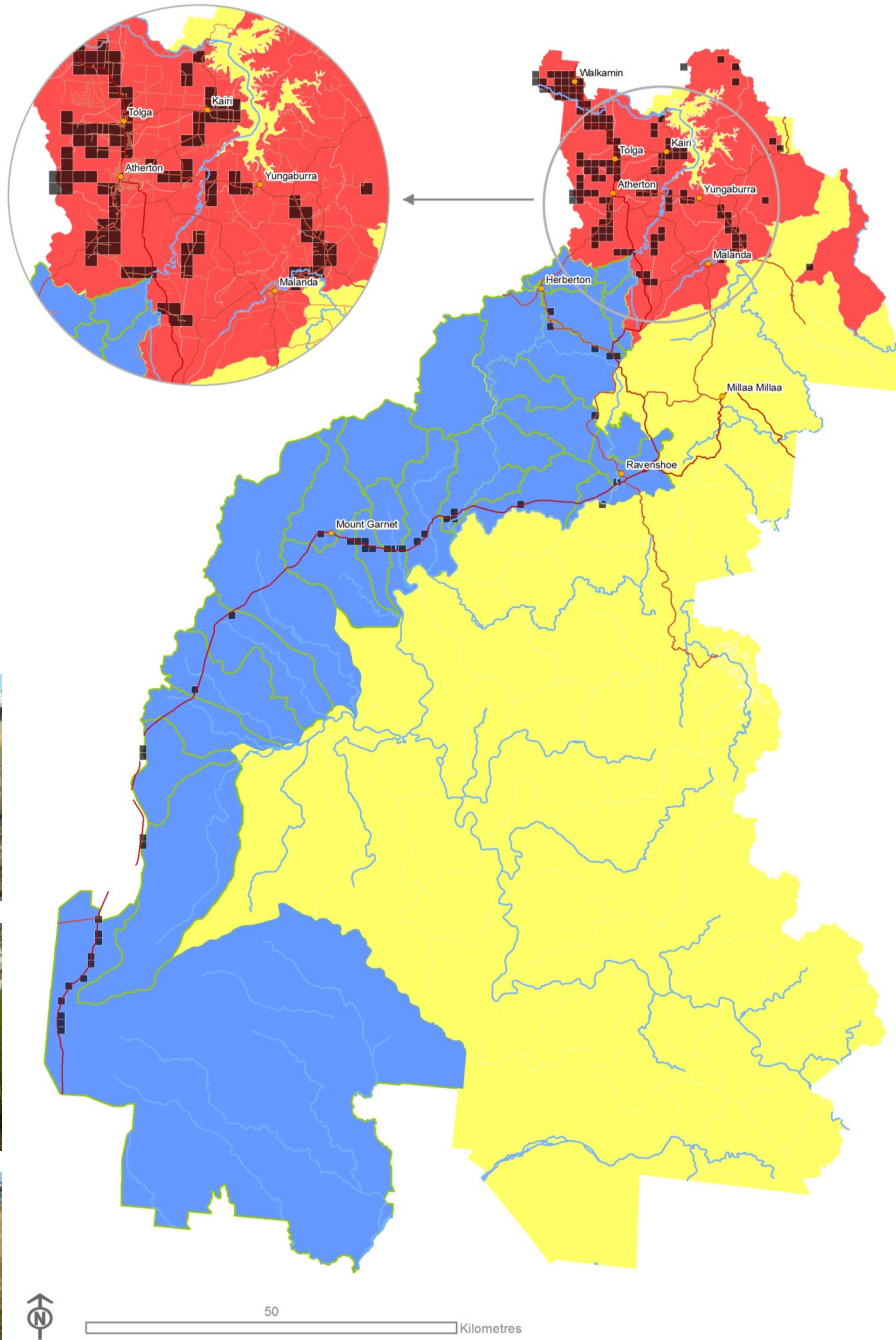
info@trc.qld.gov.au

www.trc.qld.gov.au

PO Box 573, Atherton QLD 4883

Tablelands Regional Council

Customer Service Centres in Atherton, Herberton, Malanda & Ravenshoe



Grass

Terrestrial

Perennial

Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

2 Must be reported

3 Do not distribute

4 Do not move

5 Do not keep

6 Do not feed

Control



Spread



What is my biosecurity obligation?

In the prevention zone
In the intensive control zone
In the asset protection zone

Weedy Sporobolus Grasses are restricted invasive plants. It is an offence under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to move, share, give away and sell this plant. Source agricultural and raw materials from a weed free area and a reliable supplier.

Remove Weedy Sporobolus Grasses from roads and areas of intensive stock feed production to prevent further spread. Report any suspected outbreaks or detections to Tablelands Regional Council on 1300 362 242. Seek advice prior to works in vicinity of known locations. Control plants along waterways and roadsides from the top of the catchment down. Assist management programs by allowing access and maintaining healthy rangelands.

Maintaining healthy pasture and groundcover will assist in the management of Weedy Sporobolus Grasses. Restricting stock and machinery movement to and from infested areas is essential to reduce spread. Ensure machinery or vehicles moving from the infested areas are free from plant material and soil.