

Aleman grass

Echinochloa polystachya



A native of tropical and subtropical America, aleman grass was introduced to Queensland as a ponded pasture. It has now invaded seasonally flooded areas, swamps, lakeshores and along rivers. It grows in water to 1 m deep. Most reproduction is vegetative as seed production is poor.

Legal requirements

Aleman grass is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Aleman grass is an aquatic or semi-aquatic perennial grass 1–2.5 m high. Stems are coarse and thick in the lower parts and arise from long runners that develop roots.

Leaves are flat and smooth, taper towards the apex, are 20–60 cm long and 1–1.5 cm wide with rough edges. Flower heads are 15–25 cm long.



Control

Manual control

Dig out small areas of young plants with a mattock or similar tool when the site is not waterlogged.

Treat mature plants and larger infestations with an appropriate herbicide.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of aleman grass in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control aleman grass as an environmental weed in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit apvma.gov.au.

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth. These should be re-sprayed.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of aleman grass

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas	Glyphosate 360 g/L e.g. Roundup® Biactive, Weedmaster® Duo	1 L per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023	Spot spray (for aquatic and wetland areas). Read permit carefully prior to use.
	Haloxypop 130 g/L (e.g. Gallant West)	100 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil		
	Haloxypop 520 g/L (e.g. Verdict 520, Haloxypop 520)	25 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil		

Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

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Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

