

Molasses grass

Melinis minutiflora



Introduced from Africa, molasses grass adopts a densely smothering habit. Once established, molasses grass grows thickly from rooted runners and can exclude other species. In some Pacific countries it is regarded as a good forage grass, yet, in Australia, its weediness is undesirable. The dense mats formed by molasses grass are quite fire-resistant, with rapid regeneration from the surviving portions. Infestation may increase from the subsequent invasion of surrounding burned areas. Molasses grass is readily dispersed by wind, vehicles, animals and on clothing.

These disadvantages can be overcome by growing non-invasive species that may include Celery Wood, Leopard Ash, Native Tamarind, and Wheel of Fire.

Legal requirements

Molasses 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 under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants 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

Molasses grass is a spreading, perennial mat grass. Stems are branched and up to 90 cm long. Generally, the foliage is sticky and has a strong odour like that of molasses, hence the common name. Leaf blades are commonly up to 30 cm long and reddish in colour. The slender flower heads are 10–20 cm long and may be purplish in colour when young.

Control

Small infestations or individual plants may be manually chipped out with hand tools, such as hoes.

Cannot tolerate grazing or mowing.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of molasses grass in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control molasses 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.

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 molasses grass

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details
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	Fluazifop-P 212 g/L (e.g. Fusilade®)	2 L per ha	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Glyphosate 360) And other formulations	1 L per 100 L water	

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.

