

Broad-leaved paspalum

Paspalum mandiocanum



Broad-leaved paspalum is an unpalatable, introduced, hardy and adaptable grass that invades cattle and horse pastures by out-competing and replacing palatable native pasture species.

It tolerates both dense shade and drought conditions, grows quickly (particularly after rainfall), smothers less competitive grasses by spreading horizontally, produces a large number of seeds and has a high rate of germination.

Legal requirements

Broad-leaved paspalum 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

Broad-leaved paspalum has mature leaves more than 10 mm wide, bright green, have a crinkled margin and a tendency to spread. The lower section, 70–100 mm of leaf is usually maroon, burgundy or brown.

Flower stems can be over 1 m tall with up to 10 flower/seed stalks growing alternately down the stem. Ripe seed heads hang at about 45° if the stem is upright.

Individual tussocks can grow to 1 m wide and easily spread sideways, as the stems that make contact with the soil will form roots. Tussocks have a high degree of tolerance to mowing.

Habitat and distribution

Plants grow in open pasture, along roadside verges and in bush margins, but also in deeply-shaded sections of forest.

First discovered in cattle paddocks on the Atherton Tablelands in 2002. Reported in horticultural properties around Bellthorpe and Booroobin in 2004. Reported as growing on roadsides around the Blackall Range region 2004 onwards.

Control

Seedlings and smaller plants can be hand-pulled, bagged and composted or disposed of at the local garbage dump. Wear gloves, as the leaves and seed heads can cause skin irritation.

An integrated approach is required for larger infestations of broad-leaved paspalum. Ensure pastures are not over-grazed to allow competition from desired species. No single herbicide will be 100% effective. Take care when using non-selective herbicides that may cause damage to desired pasture species.

Herbicide control

Very little information is available on control of this species and the herbicides listed below are those that have been recommended for other paspalum species or grasses generally elsewhere.

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 broad-leaved paspalum

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	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 and other formulations	1L/100L water (360 g/L formulation) Consult PER11463 (expires 30/06/2023) for other formulations	Spot spray Use only formulations registered for aquatic use in riparian areas.
	Fluazifop 212 g/L (e.g. Fusilade)	400 mL/100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil or 4 L/ha	Spot spray Do not allow spray to enter water bodies.
	Haloxyfop 130 g/L (e.g. Gallant West)	100 mL/100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil or 1 L/ha	
	Haloxyfop 520 g/L (e.g. Verdict)	25 mL/100L water plus wetting agent or spray oil or 250 mL/ha	

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

NOTE: These herbicides can kill all grasses and glyphosate can also kill a range of other plants. Use with care.

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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.

