

# 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 up 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 measures to minimise the biosecurity 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 Aleman grass. 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.



Queensland  
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## 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 allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control aleman grass as an invasive plant 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](http://apvma.gov.au).

### Follow up

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

### More information

For more information contact your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://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 (expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray (for aquatic and wetland areas)
	Imazapyr 750 g/kg (e.g. Poacher 750)	130–200 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent		
	Haloxypol 520 g/L (e.g. Verdict 520, Haloxypol 520)	50 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.**

