

# Guinea grass

*Megathyrsus maximus var maximus*



Guinea grass is an example of a useful fodder species that causes problems when growing in the wrong place at the wrong time. Guinea grass is a coloniser of disturbed sites, including roadsides and particularly untended areas. This robust grass forms clumps and may foster soil erosion in invaded areas. The seeds can be easily spread on the fur of native mammals passing through an infestation of guinea grass. Continued use as a fodder grass may lead to invasion of areas inaccessible to livestock, and into native areas.

## Legal requirements

Guinea 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 guinea grass. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland  
Government**

## Description

Guinea grass is a perennial species and may form quite large clumps. Commonly grows up to 1.5 m high, however some individuals have been recorded up to 3 m high. The leaf blades are long, narrow and finely tipped. They have a prominent mid-rib and are approximately 1 cm wide. Seed heads are large (up to 40 cm long) and are well-spread, with a large number of fine branches. Seeds are oblong in shape and are often purple in colour.

Green panic (*Panicum maximum* var. *trichoglume*) is a closely related species that differs from guinea grass in that it has softly hairy seeds.

## Management strategies

Manual control of guinea grass may require the digging out of larger clumps with a mattock or similar tool.

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of guinea grass**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Domestic areas, commercial, industrial and public service areas, agricultural buildings and other farm situations	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup, Weedmaster Duo) and other formulations	200 mL per 15 L water or 9 L per ha Consult label for rates for other formulations	Registered	Foliar spray using handgun, knapsack or boom Apply to actively growing plants at early head stage
		1 L per 2 L water Consult label for rate for other formulations	Registered	Wick wiper Plants should be at least 15 cm above the desirable vegetation at the time of application
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 212 g/L (e.g. Fusilade Post-Emergence Selective Herbicide)	75–100 mL per 15 L water or 2–4 L per ha	APVMA permit PER11463 (permit expires 30/04/2027)	Spray young vegetative growth with 3–6 leaves per shoot when growing actively Use up to 4 L per ha for well established infestations or where greater control is required in one season

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

## Herbicide control

Several glyphosate products are registered for the control of guinea grass in Queensland. A permit also allows people generally to use other herbicide products to control guinea grass as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options available for guinea grass.

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).

## More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

