

Rhodes grass

Chloris gayana



Rhodes grass is a native of south and east Africa and is now widely grown in tropical countries as a pasture species. Its wide tolerance of a range of conditions and its ability to rapidly invade areas such as rainforest fringes makes it a known weed of environmental areas in south-east Queensland. Rhodes grass produces 3–4 million seeds per kilogram and can reproduce by a number of methods to smother native ground cover species and form almost pure stands.

Legal requirements

Rhodes 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

Rhodes grass is a perennial or annual grass ranging from 60–160 cm tall. It forms strong bunch type stools with runners that rapidly cover the ground surface. Rhodes grass spreads by rhizomes, rooting stolons and seeds. Leaf blades are flat or folded and are 12.5–45 cm long and 1–2 cm wide. Inflorescences consist of 6–15 one sided spikes that are clustered at the end of the stem. Spikes are 5–10 cm long with numerous spikelets that are green when immature turning to copper-brown at maturity.

Rhodes grass is suitable to tropical and subtropical areas with rainfall ranging from 600–1600 mm annually. It is relatively drought and salt tolerant.

Control

There are many different *Chloris* species. Rhodes grass should not be confused with *Chloris virgata* and several native *Chloris* species.

Manual control of rhodes grass may require the digging out of larger clumps with a mattock or similar tool. Rhodes grass is susceptible to several herbicides.

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 rhodes grass

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Non-agricultural areas around buildings, commercial and industrial areas, domestic and public service areas, rights-of-way	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Glyphosate 360) And other formulations	6 L per ha For other formulations consult label	High volume foliar spray Plants need to be at early head stage
		1 L per 100 L water For other formulations consult label	Handgun Plants need to be at early head stage

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.