

Hunter Region Priority Weed

Giant Parramatta grass

Managing weeds makes your land more productive



Photo: H Rose

Management guide



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. All land managers have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) to contain the spread of weeds.

“General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).”

The Regional priority for Giant Parramatta grass is to protect assets from the weed’s impacts. In order to achieve this Land Managers are asked to:

Mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. Mitigate spread of the weed from their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.

For further information contact your local Weeds Officer via [Hunter Regional Weeds](#) or visit [NSW WeedWise](#).

Impacts

Giant Parramatta grass is a serious pasture weed in the eastern parts of the Hunter Region.

- Giant Parramatta grass is an aggressive perennial tussock grass, which can dramatically decrease economic viability of grazing land.
- Lowers land values.
- It invades pastures and replaces more productive types of grass.
- Doubles time for weight gain in cattle.
- Especially invasive after overgrazing, soil disturbance or fire.

- Prefers higher rainfall areas but can tolerate dry well.
- Giant Parramatta grass produces a large amount of seed, up to 8,500 per square meter.
- Seeds remain viable for up to 10 years.
- Seed can be dispersed by water, wind, on animals, people and machinery.
- Seeds become sticky when wet, after rain or with morning dew, making them easier to spread.
- Seedlings are hardy from only 5 cm height.

Management

- Maintain good farm biosecurity practices to prevent spread of seed to clean areas. This may include a wash down area for vehicle and machinery moving onto and off your land, and within your property from infested sites to clean sites.
- Quarantine new stock on arrival and monitor area for seedlings.
- Take care when purchasing stock feeds to not introduce material containing seeds.

- Ensure good pasture management to limit bare soil and to maintain good ground cover.
- Maintain a buffer zone around infested areas.
- Practice good farm biosecurity WITHIN your property. Do not drive through infested areas. Keep roadways, laneways, stock routes and machinery corridors free of Giant Parramatta grass.

Identification



Giant Parramatta grass can take over grazing land. *Photo: H Rose*



Infestation often appears first along roadsides. *Photo: H Rose*



Giant Parramatta grass plants in a grazing pasture. *Photo: H Rose*



Giant Parramatta grass seed heads up to 40 cm long, 1–2 cm wide. *Photo: Bob Trounce*



Giant Parramatta grass seeds (compared to the tip of a pencil). *Photo: Andrew Storrie*

Management Calendar

The calendar below outlines the management approach for a typical year.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Growth stage	Seed set throughout frost free times.								Seed set throughout frost free times.			
	Germination at any time with good moisture and soil temperature.											
	Active growth and flowering.								Active growth and flowering.			
Action	Maintain good ground cover.											
	Optimum time for chemical control.							Apply targeted herbicide (4 month withholding).		Optimum time for chemical control.		
	Granular herbicide application may be done any time, requires rain to dissolve into soil.											

Recommended control options may vary according to your area. There are experienced professional Weeds Officers based in each Local Government Area who have local knowledge and can provide expert advice for your weed management situation. Contact your expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or at Hunter Regional Weeds.

Herbicide control options for all areas in NSW, including current herbicide registrations, are available for Giant Parramatta grass at <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/58>.

Remember that all herbicide must be used and handled in accordance with the label or permit.



Get the WeedWise app

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/GiantParramattaGrass>

Further information

For further information on how to meet your General Biosecurity Duty on your property, your best source is the expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or via Hunter Regional Weeds.

Contact Hunter Regional Weeds

www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au

Hunter Local Land Services

www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au

NSW Weed Wise

www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au



Photo: H Rose