

## Molasses grass

*Melinis minutiflora*



### The problem

Introduced from Africa, molasses grass adopts a densely smothering habit. Once established, it grows thickly from rooted runners and can exclude other species. In some Pacific countries it is regarded as a good forage grass, yet, in Australia, its weediness is undesirable. The dense mats formed by this plant are quite fire-resistant, with rapid regeneration from the surviving portions. Infestation may increase from the subsequent invasion of surrounding burned areas. This species is readily dispersed by wind.

### Description

This weed is a spreading, perennial mat grass. Stems are branched and up to 90 cm long. Generally, the foliage is sticky and has a strong odour like that of molasses, hence the common name. Leaf blades are commonly up to 30 cm long and reddish in colour. The slender flower heads are 10–20 cm long and may be purplish in colour when young.

## Management strategies

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has issued an off-label permit, PER7485, for the use of the herbicides listed below.

This use is approved only for purposes as listed.

Prospective users must read the permit, or have it read to them, prior to preparing and/or using the aforementioned herbicide in the manner prescribed.

Small infestations or individual plants may be manually chipped out with hand tools, such as hoes.

Cannot tolerate grazing or mowing.

## Declaration details

Molasses grass is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

## Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

**TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF MOLASSES GRASS**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Foliar spray applied by knapsack, sprinkler or boom spray only	fluazifop-P (212 g/L) e.g. Fusilade®	2 L per ha	PERMIT 7485
Spot spray	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions.