



Shoalhaven City Council Weed Management Plan – Giant Parramatta grass

Common name: Giant Parramatta grass

Botanic name: *Sporobolus fertilis*

South East Regional Priority Weed Objective - Containment

Core area: *Land managers reduce the impacts from plants on priority assets*

Mandatory measure: *Plants must not be imported into the State or be sold*

Giant Parramatta grass can dramatically decrease economic viability of grazing land and lower land values. It invades pastures and replaces more productive types of grass, especially after overgrazing or soil disturbance.

Giant Parramatta grass produce a large amount of seed that is dispersed by water, wind and machinery. At maturity seeds become sticky and can attach to hair or fur. Plants are capable of producing 85,000 seeds per square metre.

Giant Parramatta grass is a coarse tussocky grass, 70-160 cm in height. The seed head is up to 40 cm long and 1-2 cm wide. Stems grow in a fan-like arrangement and the leaf-sheaths are folded. Leaf blades are up to 50 cm long and 1.5–5 mm wide. Its flower head is a dark, slaty green, dense, spike-like panicle 25-45 cm long, with branches usually lax at maturity, and sometimes diverging slightly. The spikelets are 1.5-2 mm long.

General Biosecurity Duty

*All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable*

Core area: The whole of the Shoalhaven Local Government Area. Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. Plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Mandatory measure: A person must not import into the State or sell any plant. Land managers reduce the impacts from the plant on priority assets.

The **Biosecurity Act 2015** and the **Biosecurity Regulation 2017** set out a range of penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the legislation. Penalties range from \$1,000.00 on the spot fines, through to court imposed penalties of up to a maximum of \$220,000 for individuals or \$440,000 for corporations for failing to discharge a biosecurity duty.

If an offence is proven to have been committed negligently, the court may impose a penalty of a maximum of \$1,100,000 for an individual and \$2,200,000 for a corporation.

Chemical control calendar

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Wick wiper application Withholding period: NIL								Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Wick wiper application Withholding period: NIL			
Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Spot Spraying Withholding period: NIL								Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Spot Spraying Withholding period: NIL			
Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Boom Spraying for pasture replacement/improvement Withholding period: NIL								Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Boom Spraying for pasture replacement/improvement Withholding period: NIL			

Chemical control calendar											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
							Flupropanate 745 g/L (Various products) Spot Spraying Withholding period: NIL				
							Flupropanate 745 g/L (Tussock®) DO NOT graze cows or goats that are being milked on treated areas Boom Spraying 120 days withholding period Spot Spraying grazing or cut feed 14 days DO NOT graze stock on treated areas 14 days prior to slaughter				
<p>Herbicides are a safe and effective method of control as part of an integrated Giant Parramatta grass management plan. Use of herbicides does not stop the need to maintain or establish a competitive pasture. The aim of herbicide treatment is to minimise the establishment of a large population Giant Parramatta grass. The longer that Giant Parramatta grass plants live, the more seed they produce, and large amounts of seed lead to heavy infestations. A well-timed herbicide application can be very effective in reducing the density of Giant Parramatta grass infestation for more than a year. Fire can be used to remove bulky dry material from pastures before treating regrowth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND USE CHEMICALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Refer to NSW DPI Weedwise website: http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=114</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Giant Parramatta grass page: http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/58</p>											

Prevention – quarantine: Giant Parramatta grass is easily spread by stock, machinery, fodder and seed. Land managers must ensure stock, fodder, grain and machinery coming onto their land has not come from a Giant Parramatta grass infested area. New or stock returning from agistment must be quarantined in a small paddock for at least a week. This quarantine paddock needs to be monitored for Giant Parramatta grass establishment for the next 2 summers. Also stock grazed on Giant Parramatta grass during flowering and seed set should not be moved to 'clean' paddocks without some quarantine period.

Early detection and control: Giant Parramatta grass will usually start from one or two plants near the front gate, driveway, track or farm buildings. These plants must be identified and removed before viable seed has been set. Remove plants, bag and burn, try to stop seed being dropped in the process. It may be useful to sow some replacement competitive pasture species in disturbed areas to compete with new germination of Giant Parramatta grass. Spot spraying with knockdown herbicides will require 2-3 applications for complete control.

Control with herbicides Giant Parramatta grass will require treatment with listed chemicals. Glyphosate and flupropanate based products can provide effective control. Glyphosate is fast acting but is not selective while flupropanate is slow acting and is selective in a range of pasture species. Flupropanate can take up to 12 months to kill plants and has some residual properties

Useful references:
 NSW Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=114>
 Biosecurity Act 2015: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/acts/2015-24.pdf>
 Biosecurity Regulation 2017: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/regulations/2017-232.pdf>
 South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan: http://southeast.ils.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/722706/South-East-Regional-Weed-Mgmt-Plan.pdf
 Weedy Sporobolus Grasses – Best Practice Manual <https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-MXS-63-57-38>

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared by Shoalhaven City Council in good faith and based on available information. You should seek your own advice and conduct your own investigations and assessments according to your circumstances