Giant Parramatta grass

Other Names: GPG, Drop seed grass
Botanical Name: *Sporobolus fertilus*
Weed Class: Class 4 Noxious Weed

Control options

**Mechanical Control:** Pull up plants (best results after rain while ground is moist), but take care not to scatter seed. Only suitable for minor infestations.

**Chemical Control:** The following are accepted by Council for the control of Giant Parramatta Grass. They are in order of preference after taking into account the cost, effectiveness and safety of each product. Please note withholding period with “Flupropanate” products.
You must only use a herbicide that is registered for use in NSW and in a manner and rate stated on the label (or a current pesticide order). Ensure the product chosen is suitable for the designated land use and situation. Please observe all environmental and safety cautions that are stated on the label.

- FLUPROPONATE 745 g/L - Various trade names.
- GLYPHOSATE 360 g/L – Various trade names.
- GLYPHOSATE 360 g/L - Various trade names for aquatic use only

**CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS WEED IN THE AREA OF OPERATION**

A map designating the 3 infestations levels of these weeds will be provided with this management plan.

All control measures on GPG will be within the appropriate control strategies.

1. **New infestations** – numbers and distribution reduced and prevented from seeding.
2. **Isolated/scattered infestations** – numbers and distribution reduced prevent from spreading
3. **Core infestations** – control strategies will require the use of buffers to prevent from spreading – 10 m from external property boundaries and 5 m either side of internal tracks/laneways, stock yards and waterways for all land tenures. Farm hygiene principles are to be set in place.

Ensure vigorous dense pastures are present for prevention of GPG. Clean machinery and vehicles regularly. Wick wiping is an effective way to control GPG in pastures.

Further Information on control of GPG in Agnote DPI -354

**Description:**

Giant Parramatta Grass is a coarse tussocky grass that grows to a height of between 70cm and 1.6 metres. The seed head is up to 40cm long and 1-2cm wide.

**Stems:** Stems grow in a fan-like arrangement and the leaf-sheaths are folded.

**Leaves:** Leaf blades to 50 cm long leaf blades to 1.5–5 mm wide.

**Flowers:** A dark, rather slaty green, dense spike-like panicle 25-45 cm long with branches usually lax at maturity, sometimes diverging slightly. Spikelets 1.5-2.0 mm long.
**Dispersal:** By seed by water, wind and machinery. At maturity seeds become sticky and may attach to hair or fur. Capable of producing 85,000 seeds per square metre. Early detection is critical, as once established it can be difficult to control.

**Local Control Authorities:** Far North Coast Weeds 6623 3833, Clarence Valley Council 6643 3820, Coffs Harbour City Council 6648 4000, Bellingen Shire Council 6655 7338, Nambucca Shire Council 6568 2555.


**Photo 1:** Base of plant (Australian Weeds Committee)  
**Photo 2:** Different seed heads between native and GPG  
**Photo 3:** GPG and seed head (Australian Weeds Committee)

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