

African Lovegrass

(Eragrostis curvula)

Is African Lovegrass on your property?

African Love Grass is included in Horizon's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a plant managed under a national strategy by MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. Discovery of new infestations will be reported to Biosecurity New Zealand. If you see any sites of this plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



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Identification

Variable, densely-tufted perennial grass to 1-1.5 m tall. Can be erect or prostrate and is deciduous in cold areas. Fibrous roots up to 50 cm deep. Leaves narrow and hair-like, rolled inwards, rough, usually curly at tips. Bright green to blue-green, bronze-red after frost. Seed heads loose airy panicles on long arching stems, with dark olive-purple seeds in summer. It is the only grass with blackish seed and curly leaf tips.

Weedy characteristics

Long-lived, fast growing and produces masses of widely dispersed seeds. Germinates spring and autumn, tolerates fire, disturbance, frosts drought and poor acid soils. Intolerant of wet soil.

Methods of dispersal

Seeds via wind, vehicles, stock and people.

Impact on indigenous plants

Forms dense stands in open country preventing growth of other grasses and native plants. Invades bare areas and wasteland quickly.

Typical habitats

Steep dry sites, coastal areas, rough pasture, railway and wasteland, offshore and inshore islands, cliffs, potentially throughout NZ.

Control

1. Dig out isolated plants all year round.
2. Weed wiper with glyphosate 50%. Spring/summer.
3. Spray dense stands with glyphosate at 1.5% + penetrant. Spring/summer.
4. Spray selective plants with Gallant at label rates. Spring/summer.

Site management

Difficult to control. Treat every three months. Avoid disturbance, exclude stock. Plant shade-forming species where appropriate.

Species recovery

Reseeds prolifically after fire, spraying or mechanical disturbance.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

