

HYMENACHNE

WEED OF THE MONTH

WANTED: HYMENACHNE

Have you seen Hymenachne growing in lagoons, dams, or swampy areas? Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*) was introduced to Australia from South America to provide aquatic pasture for cattle.



Hymenachne has become an unwanted pest that has overtaken wetlands, ponds, irrigation areas and catchments in Queensland. In some areas this aquatic weed has invaded low-lying cane fields, fish habitats and natural wetlands with high conservation value.

The weed restricts the territorial movements and breeding activities of native aquatic and semi-aquatic species. Due to its infestation and effect on biodiversity,

hymenachne is recognised as a Weed of National Significance.

Here are some tips to help you identify hymenachne:

- Hymenachne is a perennial grass that can grow to a height of 2.5m;
- Its vertical stems are bright green containing a white pith;
- The roots are produced at the lower end of the plant, however can extend upwards if soil is available;
- The leaf blades are green and are strongly clasp;
- The spike-like flower heads occur from April to June and can be branched; and
- The seeds set from late autumn to early spring.

The main seed dispersal methods are water movement and migrating aquatic birds. Stem fragments are also readily moved by flowing water and, in suitable conditions, provide rapid establishment of hymenachne in new locations. A single flower stalk can produce more than 4000 seeds which are viable for eight years. Please help us to target

USEFUL CONTACTS

Online

- www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/identify-specimens
- www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/biosecurity/plants

this invasive plant for early detection and eradication.

If you are unsure whether you have found hymenachne, or if you find another plant you want to be identified, send a sample to the Queensland Herbarium for identification. This is a free service, and instructions on how to collect and send a sample can be found at the Queensland Herbarium's website (listed above).

If your sample is hymenachne or another weed, contact Council's Biosecurity Services team for treatment or management plans.