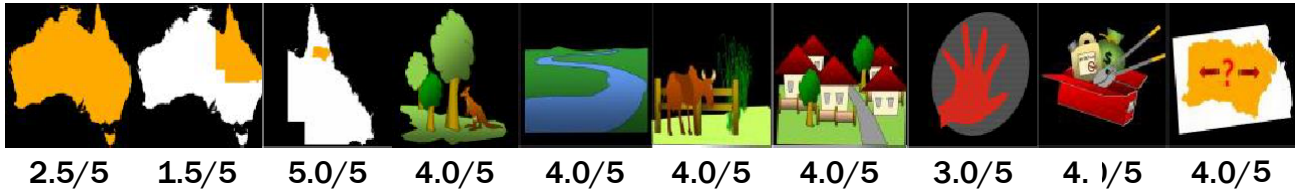


Sporobolus spp. (Giant rats tail grass)



Priority



Details

Description: A group of robust, upright perennial grasses 0.6 –1.7 metres tall. Flower spikes are about 40 cm long and transform from a distinctive dark 'rats tail' shape when young to an open pyramid when mature. Leaves are narrow and tough and can be rasp like to touch. Identification of weedy *Sporobolus* grasses can be difficult. Outside of areas of know distribution a herbarium specimen should be collected to aid identification.

Distribution: Scattered across parts of the south eastern corner of Cook Shire but in higher densities in Cooktown and surrounds. Prefers a drier savannah climate.

Impacts: A large stature species which can drastically outcompete desirable pastures. Unpalatable to stock. Is a major problem in overgrazed or disturbed systems. Invades creek lines and woodlands in drier savannah environments. Rats tail grasses are well adapted to fire.

Key projects: Priority is to remove GRT from roads and accesses to prevent further spread. Individual properties should ensure property is kept clean and fence lines /access tracks are managed.

Management requirements

Delimitation

Survey is required to establish the distribution of giant rats tail grasses across the Cook Shire area. Points of introduction are most likely to be near roadways, stock handling areas, camping grounds and transport lay off areas.

Prevention

Rats tail grasses are spread via vehicles, machinery, stock and contaminated hay . Hay from clean sources should be sought to prevent accidental introduction. Roadsides should be monitored in growing season to detect any new outbreaks. Stock should be spelled for 7 days prior to be released to drop any ingested seed.

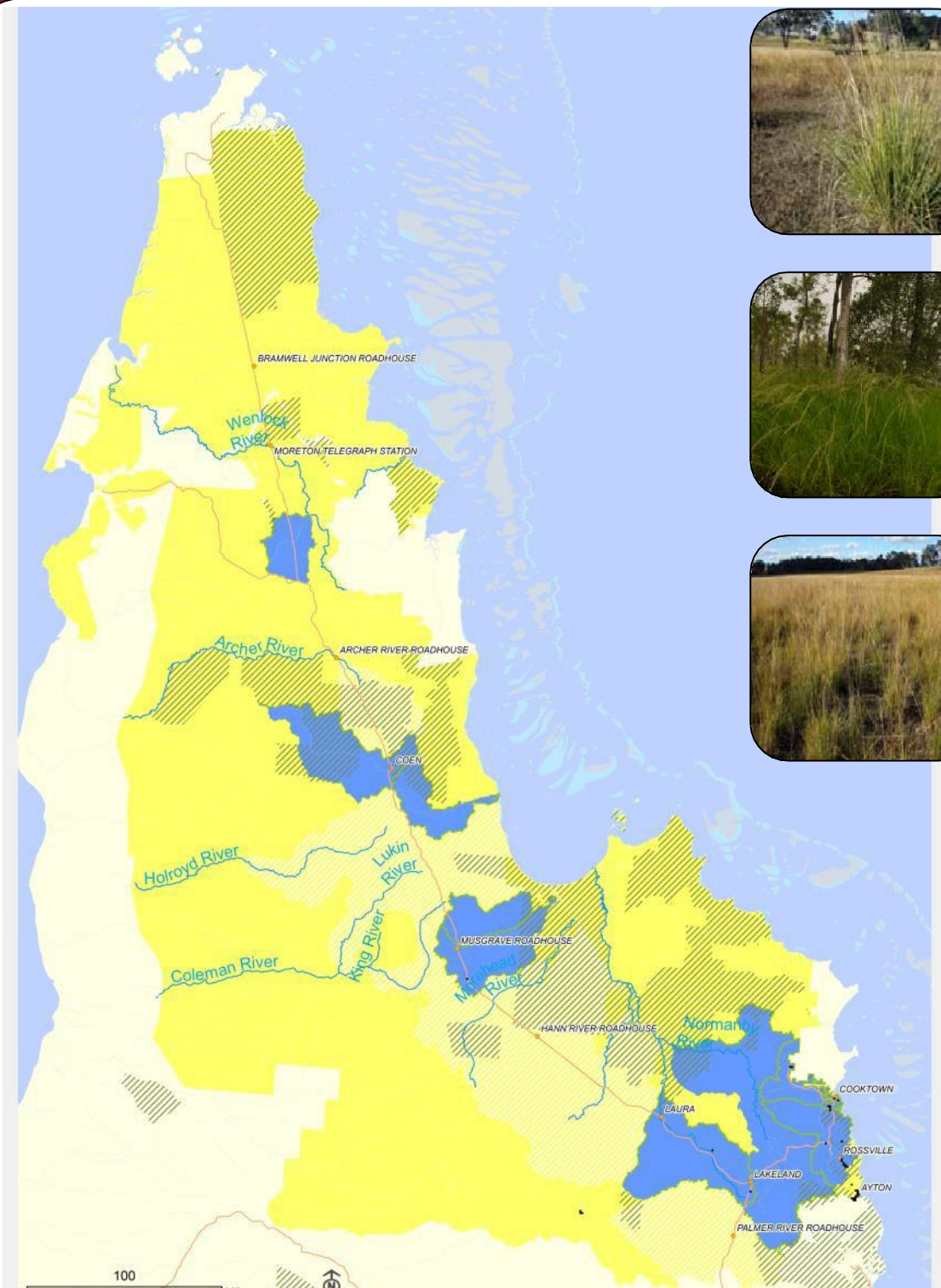
Taking care to brush down camping equipment, clean down vehicles and avoiding infested areas altogether are useful strategies to prevent spread.

Intensive control

Outlier infestations and recent introductions on roadsides are subject to an intensive control program to remove risk of establishment of dense infestations in the future. Reseeding with desirable native or pasture grasses will assist to increase completion and restore areas after control activities .

Control Calendar

flower		○	◐	●	◑	○						
seed				◐	●	●	◐	○	○			
spray						●	●	●	◐	◐	○	
residual						●	●	●	◐	○		
Mechanical	●	●	◐	○	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	◐	◐	◐
manual	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biology		● Peak			● First/last flush			○ Occasional			⊗ n/a	
Control		● Optimal			● Good			○ Marginal			⊗ Not recommended	



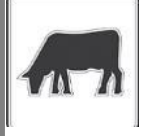



- terrestrial
- grass
- perennial

Category

- 2
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- 6

Control

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Spread

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What is my biosecurity obligation?

Delimitation zone
Prevention zone
Intensive control

Report any suspected outbreaks or detections to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444. Ensure any machinery or vehicles moving from the infested areas are free from plant material and soil. Do not cart, introduce or transport contaminated hay or silage.

Ensure best practice weed hygiene measures are in place to reduce risk of spread to new locations. Maintain sustainable stocking levels and healthy pastures.

Maintain weed free areas. Assist in annual survey operations. Control, plants before they set seed. Check along property roads and fence lines for new outbreaks.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to *Using the pest plan templates*