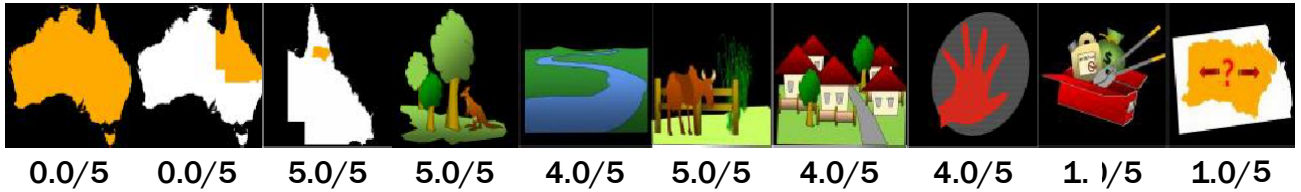


Themeda quadrivalvis (Grader grass)

Priority



Details

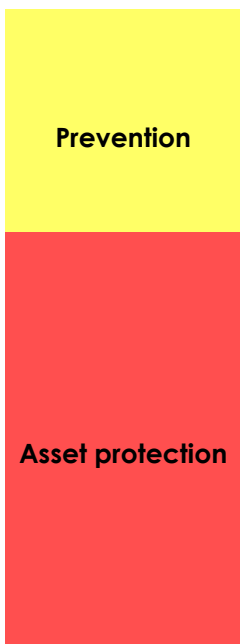
Description: Upright tufted annual grass to 1-2.5m. Flower stalks are stiff and cane-like with red-brown flower spikes bent downwards. A tropical and sub tropical grass which forms dense swards and stands on roadsides and savannah woodlands. A similar common native species, kangaroo grass, is shorter in stature, perennial and lacks tufts near the seed.

Distribution: An established weed across many areas of Cape York, particularly in savannah woodlands and open country.

Impacts: Can invade native and improved pastures, woodlands and roadsides. Grader grass is a significant weed of roadsides where it increases management requirements and impacts on safety because of its tall stature. It can significantly outcompete pastures, reducing productivity of grazing lands. Grader grass produces much higher fuel loads than native grasses increasing fire risk.

Key projects: The protection of important environmental and agricultural assets is a high priority. Protection of infrastructure and rural assets from fires fuelled by grader grass should be included in property fire plans.

Management requirements



Prevention
Avoid driving through, moving soil or moving stock from infested areas in adjoining regions. Spell cattle in holding yards for at least 7 days if moving from areas within the asset protection zone. Ensure machinery and vehicles are free from plants material and soil. Monitor woodlands and native pastures after fire and disturbance for outbreaks.

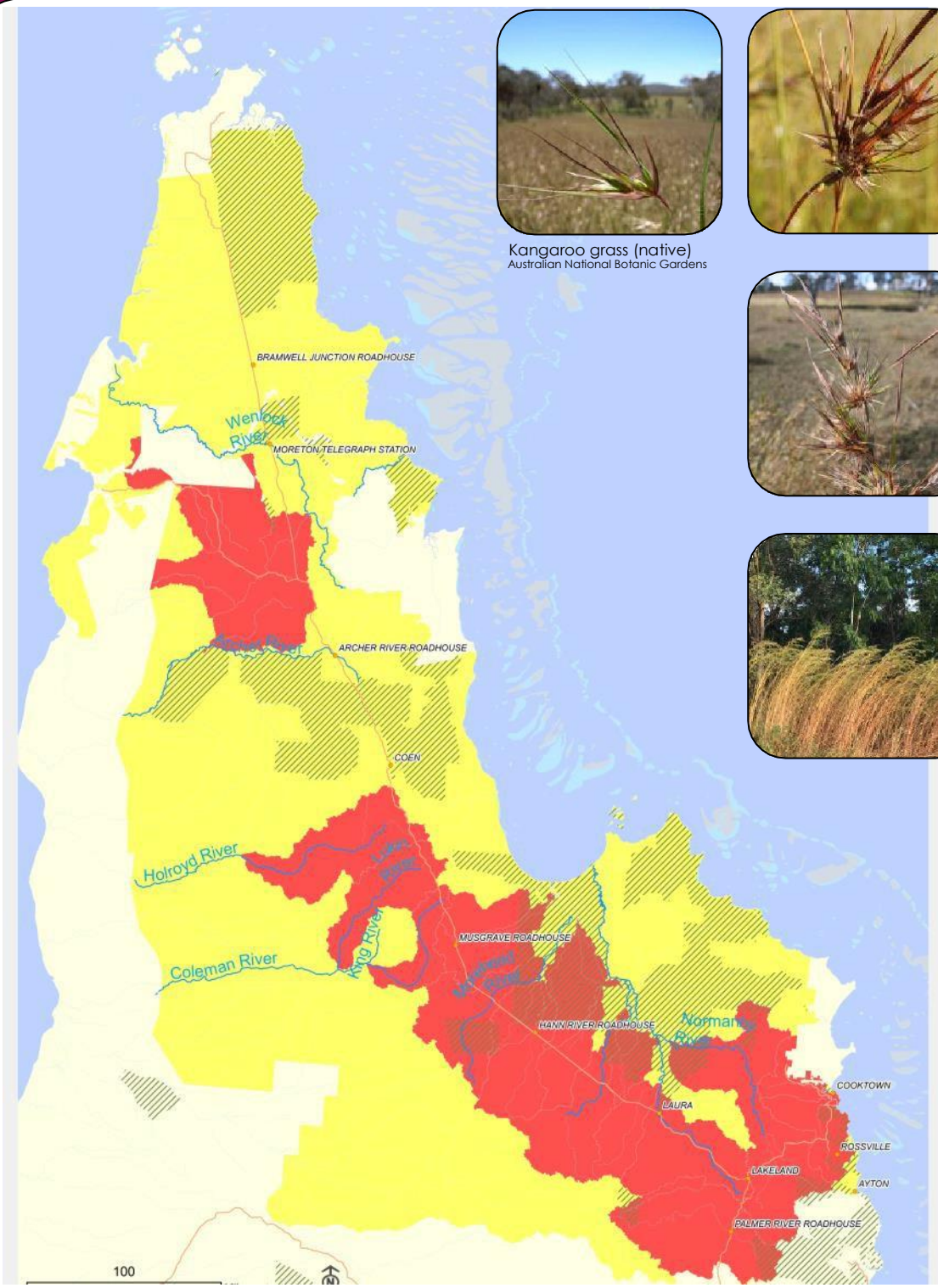
Asset protection
Grader grass can be complex to manage once established as it responds well to fire and soil disturbance and there are limited selective control techniques available. It germinates earlier and grows faster than many native grasses and can quickly outcompete pastures and grassy woodlands.

The seed is easily transported on machinery, raw materials, recreational vehicles and animals. Because it is an annual it leaves soil uncovered when dead.

Grader grass is most suited to monsoonal savannah woodlands and grassland where it can form monocultures well over 1 metre tall. These dense stands can outcompete native grasses when living and then fuel hot fires when hayed-off.

Control Calendar

flower	●	●	◐	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	●	●
seed	●	●	◐	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	◑	●	●
spray	○	○	○	◑	●	○	○	○	◑	●	●	●
mechanical	●	◐	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	◑	◑	○	○
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biology		●			●				○		⊗	
Control		Optimal			Good				Marginal		Not recommended	



Kangaroo grass (native)
Australian National Botanic Gardens







- terrestrial
- grass
- perennial

Category

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Control

- 
- 
- 
- 

Spread

- 
- 
- 

What is my biosecurity obligation?

- Prevention zone**
- Asset protection zone**

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 weed free areas. Identify high value assets and protect them from impacts where possible.

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