



Narrabri Shire Council Management Plan for Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halapense*)

Plan No: JG01/2006

Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halapense*) is a summer growing perennial sorghum up to 2m that can invade both dry land and irrigated cropping areas. It shades and competes with crops. It can be toxic to livestock.

Leaves of Johnson Grass are broad, ribbed and hairless and the flower heads are reddish, open and finely hairy. Seeds are tear shaped, 3mm long and reddish brown. Seeds germinate in spring and early summer. Flowering occurs roughly two months after germination and continues until conditions for sustained plant growth become unsuitable.

In the Narrabri Shire, Johnson Grass is gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to section 7 and 8 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (the Act) as amended in 2005. Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

Order 19 also provides that the growth and spread of this plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the Local Control Authority (LCA). To comply with Order 19, Johnson Grass must be managed in such a way as to minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of NSW.

CONTROL MEASURES

Johnson Grass must be actively managed to reduce population size and distribution. Areas within 100m of a property boundary must be continuously clear of Johnson grass.

Owners/occupiers may use either or both of the following control methods:

- a. **Mechanical:** cultivation of the plant is most effective when the grass is about 36cm tall as this prevents plants from forming rhizomes or seeds.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Johnson Grass, in the manner specified on the label. The selection of herbicide will generally be dependent on the crop in which the infestation has occurred.

Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) Weeds Officers will inspect private and crown land for infestations of Johnson Grass. NSC will also undertake control work with allocated funds on Crown Land and land for which it has responsibility.

Enforcement through court action is an LCA option for non-compliance with Section 12 of the Act by the owner/occupier of private land.

The plan will remain in force until 1 March 2011 and Council may review, vary or revoke this plan in accordance with the Act.

Further information about this plan can be obtained from NSC by phone (02) 6799 6702, fax (02) 6762 4301 or by mail to PO Box 261, Narrabri NSW 2390.

Adopted: 21 November 2006
Revision Date: 1 March 2011

Authorised:
Acting General Manager