



Trading as:

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

COLUMBUS GRASS

(*Sorghum x almum*)

BACKGROUND

Description: Columbus Grass is a vigorous short lived, late maturing, summer growing coarse perennial grass 1 to 2.5 m high that reproduces by seed and from rhizomes. Stems are erect, stout and leaves are dark green to 50cm and more long. The inflorescence is pale green to red brown branching in a pyramidal panicle 25cm long. Seed is reddish brown to black to 4mm long. Roots are fibrous reaching to a depth of 1metre. Columbus grass is a weed of cultivation areas and roadsides.

Declaration: Columbus Grass is classified as a Class 4 noxious weed in the New England Weeds Authority Area.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act of 1993* as amended:

- The control objective of Class 4 noxious weeds is that they must be managed in such a way as to 'minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of New South Wales'.
- The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a Management Plan published by the Local Control Authority (in this case the New England Weeds Authority).

CONTROL MEASURES

The New England Weeds Authority will control Columbus Grass growing on all land for which it has the responsibility to control weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control Columbus Grass to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land are required to control Columbus Grass in the following manner:

- (a) **CHEMICAL** – The Columbus Grass is to be treated with a herbicide registered for the control of Columbus Grass, in the manner specified on the label; OR
- (b) **MECHANICAL** – The Columbus Grass is to be hoed, grubbed, ploughed, slashed, or otherwise cut, in a manner that prevents the formation and distribution of seed.