



Trading as:

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

JOHNSON GRASS

(*Sorghum halepense*)

BACKGROUND

Description: Johnson Grass is an erect perennial grass growing up to 2m high and reproducing by seed and rhizomes. The stems are slender, up to 1.5m long rising from extensive rhizomes within the upper 30cm of the soil. Leaves are alternate, smooth and flat up to 50cm long. The inflorescence is pale green to purplish, many branched with spikelets arranged in pairs. Seeds are reddish brown to black up to 4mm long. The plants roots are fibrous reaching depths of 1.2 m in the soil. Johnson Grass is a strong competitor that can cause severe crop losses. It also produces compounds which suppress other plants and plays host to crop pests and diseases. Cross-pollination with commercial sorghums will reduce yields.

Declaration: Johnson 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 Johnson Grass growing on 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 Johnson Grass to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.

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

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