

fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum



Also known as: african fountain grass, plume grass

About

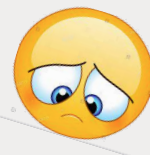
- Native of Africa and the Middle East.
- Originally used for ornamental purposes and sand binding.
- Forms large, dense tussocks.
- Flowers purple, maturing to light straw-coloured.
- Appears in the Global Invasive Species Database.



Need to know



- Readily out-competes native plants and can alter nutrient cycling.
- Can increase fuel loads to affect intensity and spread of fires.
- Seeds live for 6+ years.
- Seedlings readily establish in wetter years and then become drought tolerant in drier years, allowing it to maintain dominance over other grasses.
- Produces large numbers of wind-dispersed seeds—its spread could be rapid and almost impossible to prevent.



WHAT YOU CAN DO



PULL IT OUT



SLASH

During winter



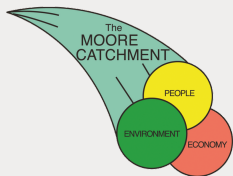
SPOT SPRAY

Best when flowering



DESTROY

FLOWERS and SEEDS



CONTROL fountain grass



The Life Cycle

Calendar Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dormant						Y	Y					
Active Growth	Y	Y							Y	Y	Y	Y
Germination				O	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Flowering	Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fruiting	Y	Y									Y	Y
Optimum Treatment			Y	Y	O						Y	Y

Legend: Y = Yes, regularly, O = Occasionally, U = Uncertain, referred by others but not confirmed.

Source: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/541>

IT SPREADS BY SEED

Wind, water, mammals, livestock, slashing, humans



PULL IT OUT



SLASH



SPOT SPRAY

- Best option for small infestations.
- Leaves and seed heads can cause skin irritation 🧤🧤
- Cut off any flowers and put in plastic bag immediately to stop spread.

- Only in winter when no flowers present.

- Spray with 10 ml glyphosate per litre + wetting agent in spring to autumn.
- Check for regrowth.

Source: <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/fountain-grass/>

Suggestion

Even though you can buy them from plant nurseries, buy something else for your garden !

