

African Lovegrass

(*Eragrostis curvula*)

Pest Plant Requiring Management

Why is it a problem?

African Lovegrass is a hardy, perennial grass that invades pasture and native vegetation. African Lovegrass produces large, unpalatable tussocks that displace productive plants in pastures. If unchecked, it can spread and form pure, dense infestations. Young plants are nutritious and are readily grazed. Plants become unpalatable, and are avoided by stock, as they mature. Sparse, overgrazed pastures are most at risk. African Lovegrass is a threat to high value pastures.

How do we control it?

Young African Lovegrass plants cannot compete with established, well-managed pasture. Small infestations can be controlled by chipping or spot spraying. Soil disturbance should be minimised to avoid creating opportunities for African Lovegrass invasion. For advice on chemical control techniques contact your nearest Natural Resources Centre.



What does it look like?

African Lovegrass forms large perennial tussocks that grow to between 30 and 120 cm high.

Leaves

Leaves are up to 30 cm long and narrow (3 mm wide) with rolled margins. Leaf colour varies from dark green to blue-green.

Flowers

The flower stems are slender, erect and sometimes bent at the nodes. The flower heads form a spreading panicle 6 to 30 cm long with a grey-green colour.

Seeds

Ripe seed is present from January to March. Seeds germinate in autumn or spring.



Where can landowners find more information?

For more information please visit the Department of Agriculture and Food's Website: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/weeds> or contact them direct on 1300 374 731. Additionally, you can find more information on the Shire of Northam's website: www.northam.wa.gov.au or contact the Environmental Sustainability Officer on 9622 6100.