Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Protect Grow Innovate

Biosecurity alert: Gamba grass

(Andropogon gayanus)

The pest and its impacts

Gamba grass is a perennial tussock grass that can grow up to 4 m tall in dense stands. It is a major fire hazard and can cause uncontrollable, hot and intense fires that destroy trees, animal habitat and present a danger to properties and people. It outcompetes native grasses and is a declared pest in Western Australia and also a Weed of National Significance.

LOOK for this pest

- forms in dense tussocks up to 4 m tall and 70 cm in diameter
- v-shaped fluffy seed head on thick stem above the leaves
- thick stems covered with soft white hairs.

Gamba grass characteristics

- grows in pastures and along road verges
- prolific seeder (up to 240,000 seeds per plant every year)
- seeds spread by vehicles and machinery, wind and water.

Seed head

Stem with white hairs

REPORT suspected sightings

- be aware of any new or unusual plants
- prompt action is necessary to assist in eradication
- note the date, time and location of the pest
- take photographs of the v-shaped seed head and leaves.

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.dpird.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
08 9368 3080
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