



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.



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.



Seed head



Stem with white hairs



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

Pest and Disease Information Service
08 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

Important disclaimer The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2026

dpird.wa.gov.au/declaredweeds