

Molasses grass

Melinis minutiflora



Native to Africa, molasses grass adopts a densely smothering habit. Once established, molasses grass grows thickly from rooted runners and can exclude other species. The dense mats formed are quite fire-resistant, with rapid regeneration from the surviving portions. Infestation may increase from the subsequent invasion of surrounding burned areas. Molasses grass is readily dispersed by wind, vehicles, animals and on clothing.

Legal requirements

Molasses grass is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control.



Queensland
Government

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on molasses grass. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Molasses grass is a spreading, perennial mat grass. Stems are branched and up to 90 cm long. Generally, the foliage is sticky and has a strong odour like that of molasses, hence the common name. Leaf blades are commonly up to 30 cm long and reddish in colour. The slender flower heads are 10–20 cm long and may be purplish in colour when young.

Control

Small infestations or individual plants may be manually chipped out with hand tools, such as hoes. It cannot tolerate grazing or mowing.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of molasses grass in Queensland. However, a permit allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control molasses grass as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit apvma.gov.au.



Table 1. Herbicides for the control of molasses grass

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas	Fluazifop 212 g/L (e.g. Fusilade)	19–150 mL per 15 L water or up to 4 L per ha	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Always add wetting agent or spray oil according to label mixing instructions. When spot spraying thorough coverage is required. Use the lower spot spraying application rate when targeting grass weeds that are growing actively at the 5 leaf to early tillering stage. The higher spot spray application rate should be used when targeting established and actively growing grass weeds.
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo) For mix rates for other formulations consult the permit PER11463	1 L per 100 L water		Spot spray

