

# Para grass

*Urochloa mutica*



Para grass is a common invasive grass in many sugarcane growing areas. It has been used in tropical locations as a fodder species, especially as a ponded pasture in beef production.

Para grass can be a very aggressive invader, particularly in low-lying ungrazed areas and in sugar cane crops. Para grass is often found in wet situations, especially drains, but will also grow in deep soils in non-swampy areas. The ability to thrive in wet areas highlights this species as a potential threat to natural wetland ecosystems. Native plants are significantly displaced by the vigorous growth of this weed. Para grass also invades areas of disturbed remnant vegetation on suitable soils.

## Legal requirements

Para 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.

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



**Queensland  
Government**

## Description

Para grass is a perennial grass up to 1 m high. The stems are hollow and robust, creeping in a prostrate growth habit. Stems stand erect towards the ends and sprout new roots wherever the nodes touch the ground. Leaf blades are hairy and dark green in colour. They are usually up to 15 cm long and less than 1 cm wide, tapering to a long, fine point. The leaf sheaths are also hairy, particularly where they join the stem. Flower heads are up to 18 cm long and are made up of several spikes, each about 5 cm long. Seeds cluster thickly along each of these spikes, although para grass seldom sets seed in southern Queensland.

## Control

Grazing para grass prevents it dominating other vegetation.

Two herbicides are registered for use in non-crop situations, but only certain formulations of glyphosate can be used around water. In addition fluazifop may be used in certain situations under minor use permit APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027).

Various products are registered for use in cropping or orchard situations. If treating para grass in an aquatic situation, be sure to only use products registered for that particular use. Not in waterways deeper than 60 cm.

## More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of para grass**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Non-agricultural areas around buildings, commercial and industrial areas, domestic and public service areas, rights-of-way	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup Biactive®) and other formulations	195 mL per 15 L water or 9 per ha	Registered	Foliar application Apply to actively growing plants at the early head stage. When spraying around water, use only formulations registered for aquatic use, and follow label instructions carefully. Do not apply to plants growing over water. Do not allow water to return to dry channels and drains within four days of application. Do not spray across open bodies of water and do not allow spray to enter the water.
Commercial and industrial areas, rights-of-way, around agricultural buildings	Bromacil 800 g/kg (e.g. Bromacil 800WP)	8–13 kg per ha		The lowest rate will provide control in low rainfall areas. Consult label for details.
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. Fusilier)	2–4 L per ha with adjuvant	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	High volume foliar spray Always add wetting agent or spray oil according to label mixing instructions.
		400 mL per 100 L water with adjuvant		Spot spray Actively growing plants, at 5 leaf to early tillering. Use higher rate for well-established infestations. Always add wetting agent or spray oil according to label mixing instructions.

**Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.**

