

# Seen this plant? Coolatai Grass

*Hyparrhenia hirta*



## How does this weed affect us?

Invasive perennial (tussock forming) grass that is drought, fire and herbicide tolerant. Tolerant of a range of soil types and capable of invading even undisturbed natural ecosystems. Threat to biodiversity and land productivity:

- Dominates heavily grazed areas with little ground cover.
- Low feed value and digestibility.

- Forms dense swards when unmanaged replacing native vegetation.
- Creates a monocultured ecosystem reducing biodiversity.
- Increases fire hazard and intensity from which it readily regenerates.
- Plants are long-lived with seed output increasing with age.

**Seen it? Call us:**

**Cootamundra-Gundagai  
Biosecurity Officer:**

**1300 459 689**

**NSW DPI Biosecurity  
Helpline:**

**1800 680 244**

**Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.**

**For control and biosecurity information visit NSW**

**WeedWise: [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Coolataigrass](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Coolataigrass)**

### Where are you likely to find it?

Found in all Australian states and territories with higher infestations occurring in south-east Queensland, north-eastern NSW and Victoria as well as South Australia. The weed is anticipated to increase its range further with the assistance of favorable Summer conditions in recent years. The plant is adaptable and readily proliferates on both marginal and heavier soils with further ability to tolerate intensive grazing systems to undisturbed bushland environments.

### What does it look like?

Long lived, predominately Summer active perennial grass – produces short rhizomes that eventually form dense tussocks up to 1.5m high when mature. Leaves are grey-green when in active growth over Summer, turning a streaked orange-red during frost periods over Winter. The leaf blades are harsh to touch, flat (2-3mm wide) and minutely toothed. The seedheads consist of paired racemes with 5-8 awns. The racemes are up to 35mm long and arise from 3-8cm long flower bracts. 50% of produced flowers are male and therefore sterile.

### Regional Recommended Measure\* (for Regional Priority - Containment)

*Within exclusion zone: Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.*

*Notify local control authority if found. Within core infestation area: Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land. A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment. Land managers should reduce the impact of the plant on assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value.*



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