

## Grasses (various)



Figure 1: Kykuyu



Figure 2: Fountain grass



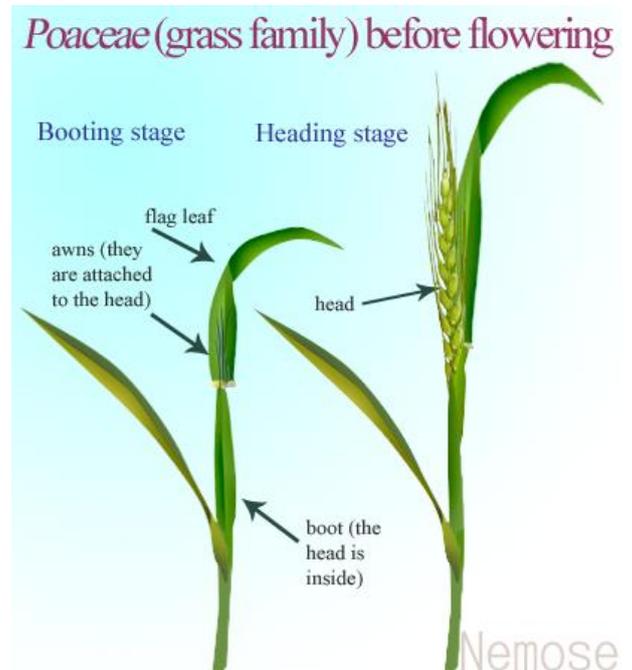
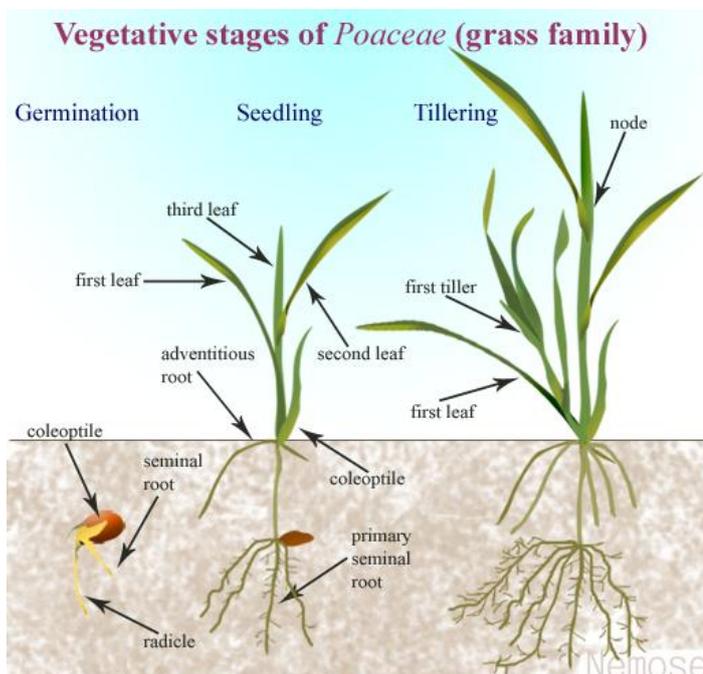
Figure 3: Serrated Tussock



Figure 4: Water couch

### 1. Life Cycle

- Some grasses grow in a mat like form, using both underground and above ground roots, called 'rhizomes' and 'stolons'. (eg. Kykuyu, couch), while others grow as a 'tussock' or clump.
- Grasses come in both annual, and perennial form, and this is key to effective control.
- Flowering is typically noticed when there are fresh 'seed heads' on the plant, as conventional flowers are not produced.



## 2. Dispersal

- Grass seeds are one of the most widely distributed seeds, of any plant form. Blown around by the wind, transported by ants, floated through water, eaten and excreted by birds and carried in animal fur.
- Underground and above ground rooting points. Many of the matting varieties of grasses, use rhizomes, and stolon, to spread out from the parent plant. These are like scout stems, which regularly put out new roots, and create new plants.

## 3. Eradication

- Due to the large amount of seed produced by grasses, full control requires multiple follow up treatments.
- In the case of annual grasses in particular, treatment **MUST** take place prior to seeding occurring in order to break the seed cycle.
- For this reason, it is important to become familiar with what your target grassy weed looks like, in its juvenile form.

## 4. Control Techniques

### Non-chemical control:

- Small infestations can be handweeded. This is particularly effective with annual grassy weeds, as their root systems are much weaker, and pull out of the ground easier. This is also preferable if the plants have begun producing seed already, as these can be bagged and removed from site.
- Regular slashing of weedy grasses, prior to seeding, will control plants, but will not eradicate perennial forms.
- Spraying with herbicide, will require follow up, but is particularly effective.

### Chemical control:

### Chemicals used

Please Note:

All chemical recommendations discussed are done so with the understanding that ANY and ALL herbicides applications are carried out within the guidelines as stated within the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets. Any deviation from the MSDS instructions for rates, safety guidelines, applications etc are in NO WAY endorsed, instructed or recommended by Seeds Bushland Restorations.

It is common, good practice to be thoroughly familiar with any given herbicide prior to use.

<i>Technique</i>	<i>Chem/rate</i>	<i>OH&amp;S</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Knapsack and Tanker Spray	RoundUp Fusilade	Gumboots, chemical resistant gloves, long sleeves and long pants, hat, safety glasses or goggles. Face shield when mixing up. Do not spray in windy conditions *Respirator with Fusilade	Prior to seeding. If possible, in early growth stages of annuals.	As this info sheet refers to various grasses, specific rates should be sought from the MSDS's If spraying with RoundUp, overspray will kill any off target plants

### **5. *Timing of application***

When controlling annual grasses, the key is to break the seed cycle. Recognising the weedy grass species early, and treating it by booting stage (See above diagrams) is essential.

Perennial grasses, both creeping and tussock forms can be controlled at any time of year; however it is still preferable prior to another seeding season.

As this info sheet refers to 'various' grasses, each species should be identified and treated in the appropriate season.

### **6. *Environmental Protection***

With grasses in particular, native species can look very similar, especially in juvenile plants.

As indigenous species play a very important role in the ecosystem, it is essential that a confirmed identification is made of the species prior to treatment, and that sufficient due care is taken to avoid off target damage to desirable species.

Native and indigenous grass species are highly important food source, and habitat for insects such as butterflies, dragonflies and their larvae. These species are then relied upon to pollinate many of the food producing crops in the local area, ie orchards, market gardens etc. So protecting these insects, and the food/shelter source they rely on, in turn also protects the financial productivity of many agricultural ventures.