

## PLANT PEST CONTROL

### LAND PLANT PESTS

#### Australian Sedge: *Carex longibrachiata*

##### **Why are we worried?**

Australian Sedge is unpalatable to stock and can form dense stands in pasture which are difficult and costly to remove. Localised infestations can restrict pasture growth.

##### **What does it look like?**

- Australian Sedge is a tussock-forming perennial.
- Its very small flowers are grouped together in catkin-like spikes on the end of triangular, drooping stalks and along the main flowering stem in clusters of twos or threes.
- The leaves are about 5 mm wide, and Y shaped in cross section. Their edges are harsh and inclined to cut if fingers are pulled through the leaves. Individual plants are deep rooted and stand up to a metre tall.
- Australian Sedge is different from other sedge species that favour swampy areas, as it prefers land which is seasonally dry.

##### **Where is it found?**

Australian Sedge is confined to the North Island, with the heaviest infestations occurring in Northland hill country. Infestations in Hawke's Bay are at Kotemaori, Rapunga and Mangopoike in the Wairoa District.

*Plants on hillside  
and flowerheads*

This plant is well suited to the climate and soils of the region but has difficulty invading vigorous and well managed pastures. Early recognition and prompt removal seem sufficient to limit distribution.

##### **What's the best way to control the plant?**

Grub out each plant or thoroughly cultivate the area. As Australian Sedge will regenerate from fragments, all tiller bases must be removed to prevent regeneration.

The most effective method of control is spraying with glyphosate at recommended rates. Spot spraying or aerial treatments can achieve excellent results.

Stock moving from infested areas need to be controlled if seeding plants are present.



**For further information**

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Biosecurity Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate it.

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