

Fact Sheet: African Lovegrass

Management and Control



Key Priorities

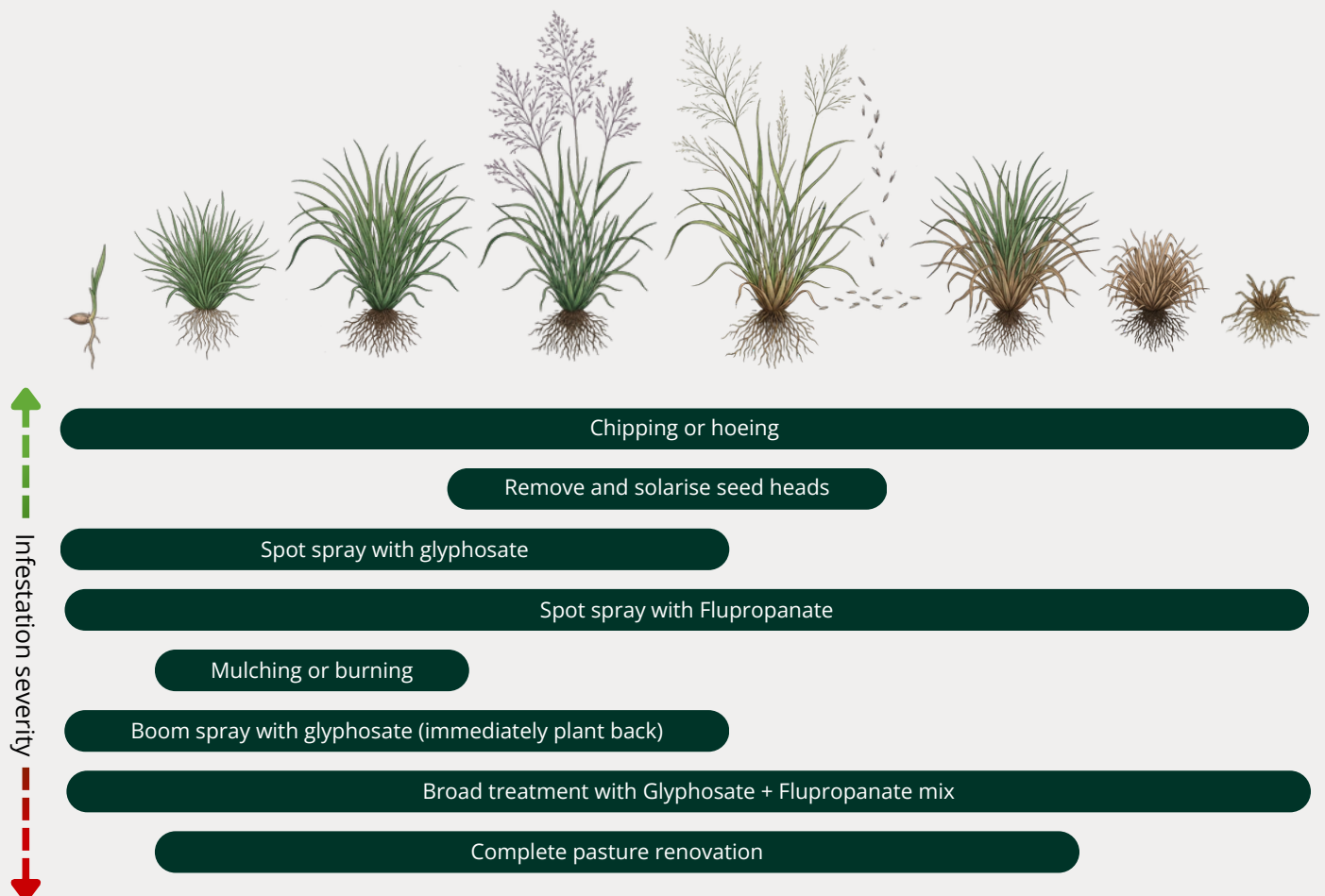
1. Reduce seed entry
2. Prevent seed set
3. Remove adult plants
4. Reduce the seed bank
5. Remain vigilant

Overview

African Lovegrass is highly invasive because it spreads rapidly, seeds quickly, and thrives in various soil types. Successful management requires a long-term integrated weed management strategy with high vigilance and sustained effort, recognising that no single control measure works alone.

Total eradication is often unrealistic. The most achievable goal is to deplete the population to a level where it can be easily controlled on an ongoing basis to reduce regional spread.

Treatment Overview by Growth Stage



Physical Management

Manual plant removal is effective for isolated plants or small outbreaks where limited soil disturbance is desired. Using tools like hoes or mattocks ensures the entire root system is extracted. This targeted approach is highly encouraged in areas with low infestation density as it avoids the off-target damage often associated with herbicide applications.

Chemical Management

Under an integrated weed management strategy herbicides are used strategically, not exclusively, to manage infestations. This requires selecting the correct herbicide and timing the application to the weed's specific growth cycle, ensuring that treatment supports the broader goal of returning the land to a productive and desirable pasture.

Situation	Physical	Glyphosate	Flupropanate	Flupropanate + Glyphosate
New emergence	Chip or hoe plants.	Spot spray when actively growing.	Too slow to work on newly emerging plants.	Spot spray in spring for faster knockdown plus residual impact.
Scattered plants	Chip or hoe plants after removing and solarising seed heads.	Spot spray when green and actively growing, glyphosate won't inactivate seeds.	Spot spray any time of year, residual effect prevents regrowth but is slow to work.	Spot spray or wick wipe during spring for faster knockdown plus residual impact.
Small patches	Chip or hoe plants after removing and solarising seed heads.	Spot spray only as is non-selective and will impact surrounding pasture.	Spot spray for selective, residual control without killing most perennial pastures.	Spot spray in later spring to stop seed set while flupropanate handles long-term kill.
Medium density	Plants can be burnt to reduce biomass, mulching if no seed heads present but high-risk for spreading.	Boom spraying kills bulk vegetation quickly but requires rapid oversowing. Has a short plant-back period.	Boom spraying works but very slow. Delay resowing until 100mm leaching rain.	Boom spraying glyphosate kills bulk fast and flupropanate provides seedbank suppression. Must be oversown.
Severe infestation	Plants can be burnt to reduce biomass before/after other treatment.	Often used as a boom spray to reduce bulk and vigour as a first step.	Reduced efficacy in thick unslashed material; slash or graze before boom spraying.	Boom spraying glyphosate cuts bulk rapidly, flupropanate handles residual control and seedbank.
Preventing seed set in-season	Hand removal and solarisation of seed heads, mulching if no seed heads present.	Wick wipe for 80–90% control. Should be repeated 2-3 times and in opposite directions.	Too slow to prevent current year's seed set.	Add glyphosate to flupropanate for seed set suppression when treating large stands.

