

# PEST PLANTS

## Control

Infestation of Kangaroo grass should be sprayed with Taskforce Herbicide. Taskforce Herbicide is a selective, residual herbicide. Read the label thoroughly before applying this product.

### Taskforce Herbicide

Knapsack - 30mls per 10 litres of water  
Boom application - 3 litres per hectare  
Apply to full coverage but not run off

Emerging Kangaroo grass seedlings will be controlled for 4-5 years. Avoid overgrazing the treated area following the withholding period to allow desirable pasture species to re-colonise where the Kangaroo grass infestation existed.

Over sowing with certified pasture seed and a fertiliser three months after treatment will increase competition and minimise any re-establishment of Kangaroo grass seedlings.

## Caution

**When using any herbicide, please read the label thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.**

Disclaimer: Although this fact sheet has been produced in good faith from a number of sources believed to be credible, the Marlborough District Council does not give any warranty that all information contained is accurate or complete or that advice given will be appropriate in all circumstances. The information regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned, therefore the Marlborough District Council shall not be liable to anyone in respect of any damages suffered as a result of their reliance on the information contained in this document. Mention of a product trade name implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

Kangaroo grass  
*Themeda triandra*



For more information on plant and animal pests phone:  
Marlborough District Council (03) 520 7400



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CONTAINMENT  
Pest Plants

Marlborough Region

# Kangaroo grass *Themeda triandra*



**Kangaroo grass**  
*Themeda triandra*

## Status

Kangaroo grass has been declared a containment control pest plant throughout the Marlborough region, the objective being to prevent any increase in the distribution and density of Kangaroo grass and reduce infestation levels where possible. Rules in the Regional Pest Management Strategy require land occupiers to destroy all Kangaroo grass on their land, with the exception of properties classified as 'Core', where they shall destroy all plants within 5 metres of their property, before they produce seed. Land occupiers must notify Marlborough District Council of any previously unknown infestations on their land. No person shall spread seed or soil likely to contain seed of Kangaroo grass from an infested site. Kangaroo grass is also banned from sale, propagation, distribution or commercial display.



## Origin

Kangaroo grass originates from Australia. The infestations in Marlborough originated from Merino sheep imported from Australia. In Australia it is considered a useful pasture species, being grazed following burning. In Marlborough, scattered infestations exist from Ward to the Wairau Valley.

## Description

Kangaroo grass is an erect, tufted perennial grass growing to half a metre tall. As plants mature the leaves turn reddish-brown and coarse, which makes them unpalatable to stock. From November to February distinctive seed heads are produced. These are large dense reddish tufted heads containing 8-12 seeds with stiff wiry tails. Their larger size and reddish colour is a useful way of separating them from most other pasture species.



## Threat

Kangaroo grass is a serious threat to pastoral farming in Marlborough. As Marlborough farmers cannot utilise a burn and graze regime, Kangaroo grass grows into mature plants which are unpalatable to stock. If left uncontrolled it forms a dense sward excluding preferred pasture species, impacting on farm productivity by reducing grazing. Seeds are spread by entanglement in stock hair/wool and farm machinery. The heavy seeds drop near the parent plant rapidly increasing infestation size. Kangaroo grass shows a preference for dry low fertility country so has the ability to invade much of Marlborough's pastoral land.

