

# Hymenachne

## *Hymenachne amplexcaulis*

Hymenachne was introduced to Australia from South America as a ponded pasture species to provide food for cattle during the dry season. Unfortunately, it quickly escaped cultivation, smothering native plants, crops and more palatable pasture species, causing severe environmental damage and economic loss. It is listed as a Weed of National Significance due to its ability to spread and its severe impacts.



### Distribution

Hymenachne forms dense stands and floating mats in wetlands and rivers, reducing water quality and degrading aquatic habitat. Hymenachne also prevents access to waterways for fishing, recreation and irrigation use.

Hymenachne is widespread in northern Australia. Small infestations have been found in the Richmond and Clarence river catchments in Northern NSW, where it has the potential to spread much further if not controlled.

### Description

Hymenachne is an erect grass that grows in swampy areas, or in water up to 2m deep. It can grow up to 1.6m tall.

Stems are hairless and contain a white pith.

Distinguishing feature: the base of the leaf blade clasps around the stem. Leaf blades are bright green, with prominent light-coloured veins and hairy margins, 20-35cm long and 2-3cm wide.

The plant produces cylindrical spike-like flower heads up to 40cm long and 8mm wide in summer and autumn.

### Habitat

Hymenachne can grow in permanent waterbodies and seasonally inundated wetlands. It invades natural wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, dams, drainage and irrigation channels and sugar cane crops.

### Reproduction and dispersal

Hymenachne spreads by seed, stolons and stem fragments. Stolons run along the ground and produce roots at each node, forming a new plant. Seeds and stem fragments are spread by flood waters forming new infestations. Waterbirds, stock, or vehicles may also transport seeds or stem fragments in mud.



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### Declaration

#### Regional priority weed objective: Eradication

These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the State. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

### Control

If you have seen, or think you have seen, Hymenachne please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800 for a positive identification and advice on control.

Control of Hymenachne is difficult, costly and time consuming. Prevention of spread is a management priority. Take care not to spread seeds or plant fragments.

#### Chemical control

**Permit 13921 expires 30/06/2022**

**Glyphosate 360 g/L**

(Only products registered for aquatic use.)

Rate: 14 L/ha.

Apply by boom, handgun, or knapsack, a maximum of 4 times a year. Refer to permit for further comments. No withholding period.

#### Non-chemical control

Manual removal is ineffective due to the plant's ability to reproduce vegetatively from very small fragments. Burning and heavy grazing before flooding have provided minimal control in some infestations.



#### For further information contact:

**Rous County Council**  
**02 6623 3800**

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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