

Gamba grass

Andropogon gayanus

Gamba grass is declared a Class A (to be eradicated), Class B (Growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

Gamba grass is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

Gamba grass was introduced into the Northern Territory as a pasture grass in the 1930s. Ensuing research and trials showed gamba grass to be a highly productive and palatable fodder. Subsequently, plantings occurred throughout pastoral and agricultural areas of the Top End.

Since this time gamba grass has proved to be highly invasive, establishing itself in savanna woodlands, along creek lines, on floodplain fringes and in disturbed vine thickets. A combination of impacts on fire regimes, soil nutrient and soil water cycles are dramatically changing these native plant communities.

HABIT



Tussocks can grow to 4m high and up to 70cm in diameter.

STEMS & BRANCHES



Gamba grass stems are robust and covered in soft hair. The shallow root system can spread up to 1m from the tussock.

LEAVES



Leaves are up to 60cm long with a distinctive white midrib and covered with soft hairs.

SEED HEAD



Flower heads occur on tall stems above the leaves. The seed head consists of up to six groups of branches.

SEEDS



The fluffy seeds are contained in a V-shaped seed head.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).