

BUFFEL GRASS



The problem

Buffel Grass is a devastating weed in central and northern Australia. It has not yet become established in Victoria.

We don't want it. It destroys habitat and fuels dangerous bushfires.

You can help

- Learn how to recognise Buffel Grass
- Report every observation of the weed in Victoria
- Understand the control methods available
- Share with others the threat posed by Buffel Grass

Buffel Grass in Victoria

Current infestations are small and confined to roadsides, primarily along roads, particularly major transport routes in the Mallee of north-west Victoria.

Buffel Grass has lots of tiny seeds that are carried and spread by vehicles and machinery and also dispersed by wind and water.

Modelling shows that the potential distribution of Buffel Grass includes most of northern Victoria.



With your help we can prevent Buffel Grass from establishing in Victoria.



It looks like Fountain Grass

Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) is very similar to the garden plant Fountain Grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*). However the Buffel seed heads are much shorter (only 10cm long).

Look-alikes

Windmill Grass (*Chloris truncata* - native) and Feathertop Rhodes Grass (*Chloris virgata* - weed).

When you're driving along the road the seed heads look similar but both Chloris species have an "umbel" flowering head (several short spikes). Buffel Grass has a single spike flowering head.

Buffel Grass (left) and the similar-looking Windmill Grass (native, middle) and Feathertop Rhodes Grass (weed, right)

Habit:

Buffel Grass is a perennial tussock grass growing 50-100 cm tall.

Growth:

It is a summer-growing weed, so from October to April (following rainfall) tussocks are thick, lush and green. In winter, the plants are dormant and dry-off to a straw color. They are not dead.

Seed head:

Purple cylindrical spike about 10cm long containing soft, dense burrs. The stem of the seed head (rachis) has an obvious zig-zag appearance.

Leaves and stems:

Leaves are rough to touch, sparsely hairy with a prominent vein/mid-rib down the centre. The base of stems often have a red or purplish tinge.

3D model



Explore a three-dimensional model of Buffel Grass [here](#)





BEST OPTION



iNaturalist

**Snap
Send
Solve**



If you are an iNaturalist user simply upload your observation to the platform. If you identify it as Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) or an unknown *Cenchrus*, it will be automatically added to this Buffel Grass Collection Project.

iNat project



The Send Snap Solve app was set up to report issues like rubbish dumping or weeds to local councils and other land managers.

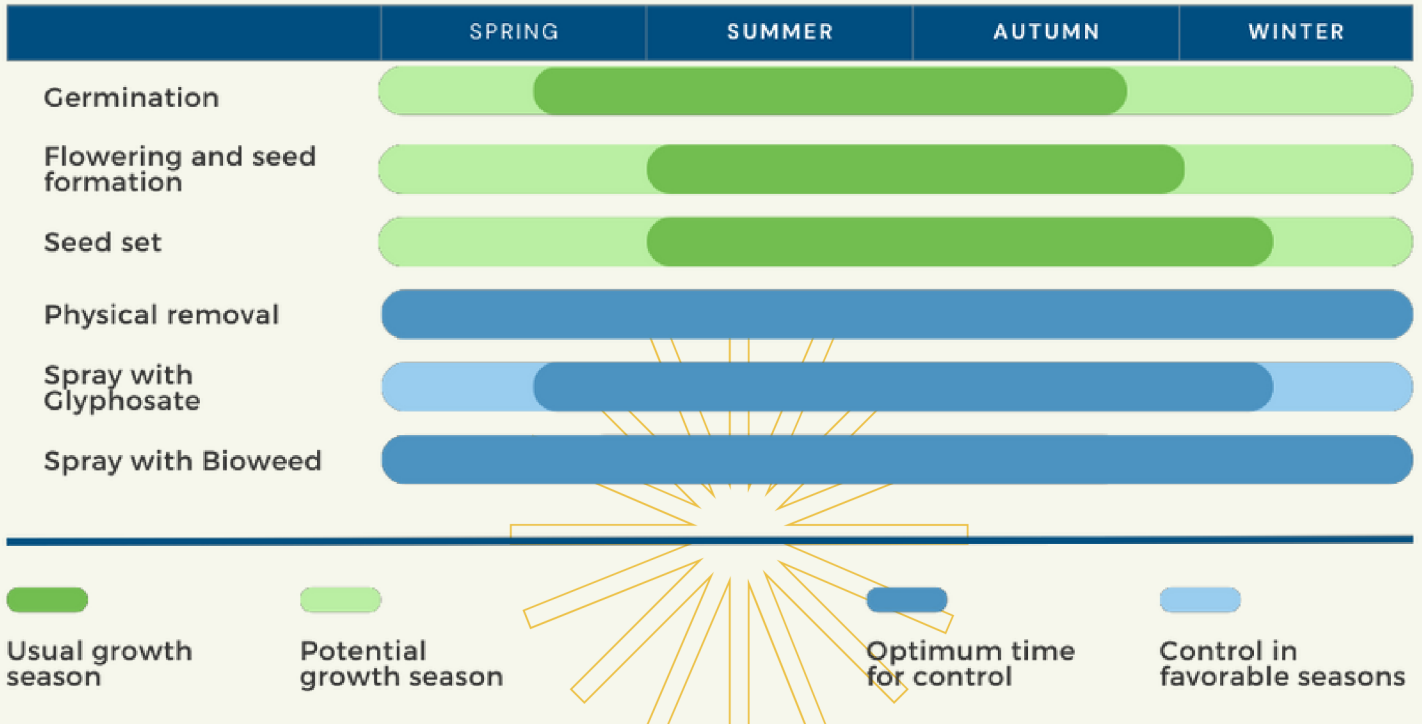
You can also send an email with the location to malleeconservation@gmail.com

The most important thing you can do about Buffel Grass is to report every observation in Victoria. Mallee Conservation follows up all observations and maintains a database stretching back to 2015.



REPORT IT

BUFFEL GRASS CONTROL CALENDAR



CONTROL



MANUAL REMOVAL

Grub out small plants or remove the seed heads from large plants



DISPOSE OF PLANTS

Seal carefully in rubbish bags and dispose to landfill



HERBICIDE

Spot spray with glyphosate when plants are actively growing. Using 2% Bioweed destroys seeds on plants and in the soil. Careful! Both herbicides are non-selective and can affect other plants. Fluprofonate is not registered for use on Buffel Grass in Victoria.



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This project was supported by the Victorian Government through a Landcare Grant from the Mallee CMA



South Australia has prepared detailed information on control options.

