

## African Lovegrass Management Article by Nicole McGuinness.

**Description:** African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is a native of South Africa; this grass was first introduced to Australia as a potential pasture species. In the South East it is recognised as a declared weed for control under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. African Lovegrass becomes more active and seeds during the summer months. It grows quickly and can invade areas of productive farmland, urban properties and public lands, where it forms dense colonies crowding out more desirable plants. African Lovegrass is a perennial species that reproduces by seed, with individual plants setting thousands of seeds at a time. It takes the form of a dense tussocky plant to 50-60cm in height, flowering stems rise out of the tussock to 1m.

**Control:** Control of African Lovegrass requires an integrated approach to be effective. Chemical control of African Lovegrass should be conducted as part of an integrated weed management plan. Herbicides are best applied from Spring to the start of Summer sprayed when the plant is green and actively growing, as this will help stop seed set in the following summer. Retreatment of infestations is required for long term control and can be improved with pasture renovation and grazing management.

African Lovegrass is established in a large proportion of the upper south east and is found scattered in isolated populations further south. To contain and reduce the spread of African Lovegrass the South East Natural Resources Management Board has developed a regional management plan. The plan identifies outlying infestations as priority locations for control and a containment line to help limit the spread of African Lovegrass.

If you require more information on identification and control for African Lovegrass please contact the Authorised Officers for the South East Natural Resources Management Board on (08) 87 246000.



African Lovegrass seed head.  
(Photo R.G. & F.J Richardson).