

Must be reported



African love grass

Why is it a pest?

While its common name may make it sound friendly, African love grass isn't very loving to Otago's bare and disturbed land which it can invade very fast.

Once it has invaded, it forms thick stands (groups of plants) and overpowers herbaceous plants (a plant that doesn't have much wood). It produces lots of seeds, sheep don't like to eat it and it's difficult to spot.

Seeds are dispersed by wind, water and human activity, moved by vehicles, livestock and clothing. This pest can be found across habitat types, including open areas, shrubland, grassland, coastal areas, cliffs, riparian margins, gravel beds, wasteland and roadsides. We currently have 20 known African love grass sites across Otago.



What does it look like?

- African love grass forms clumps of grass up to 1.5m tall.
- It is thickly tufted with thin leaves (rough to touch) that are usually curly at the tips.
- The leaves are bright green to blue-green (leaves turn bronze-red after a hard frost). Leaf sides roll inwards and are usually hairless.
- It has threadlike roots that can grow down to 50cm deep.
- The flower heads (panicles) are pyramid shaped with small, white flowers. Its blackish, olive purple seeds are attached to arching stems that are over 1m long.

Common name:

African love grass

Scientific name:

Eragrostis curvula

Management programme:

Progressive containment



**Report
this pest!**

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest you **must report** the sighting to us. Contact Otago Regional Council on **0800 474 082** or **biosecurity@orc.govt.nz**

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What are the rules?

Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) African love grass is in the **progressive containment programme**.

The goal is to reduce the spread of known African love grass sites in Otago and minimise or prevent negative effects on economic well-being and the environment.

African love grass is declared an **Unwanted Organism** in the National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA). Any species declared a pest under the NPPA cannot be sold or be in a place where plants are being sold.

Pest plants cannot be propagated, bred, multiplied, communicated, released, caused to be released, or otherwise spread.

How can I control it?

Generally, ORC will carry out the necessary control work to remove African love grass. Let us know if you think you spot African love grass outside of the known sites by calling **0800 474 082** or emailing **biosecurity@orc.govt.nz**.

Progressive Containment

The progressive containment programme aims to stop a pest from spreading and/or contain it to a certain area.



Help us find the African love grass

You must notify the Otago Regional Council if you suspect the presence of this pest plant.

If you think you've seen African love grass:



Note the location



Take a photo
(If possible)



Contact us
0800 474 082 or
biosecurity@orc.govt.nz