



Botanical name: *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*

Common name: Olive Hymenachne

Family: Poaceae

Origin: South America

Habit: Rhizomatous perennial grass

Habitat: Weed of stream banks, wetlands and irrigation ditches in coastal and central areas of Northern NSW and Queensland. This plant has invaded low lying sugar cane, fish habitats and natural wetlands. *Hymenachne* infestations are a physical barrier for aquatic and semi-aquatic animals, restricting their territorial movements and breeding activities.

Weed Category: Category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*

Toxicity: None reported.

Height: up to 2.5m in height

Flowers: Flower heads are spike like, cylindrical, 20-40 cm long and sometimes branched. Main flowering occurs April to June.

Fruit: A dense spike like elongated seed-head made up of numerous short branches held closely to the main flowering stalk. These seed-heads contain large numbers small elongated flower spikelets (3-5.5 mm long) consisting of two bracts and two tiny florets, only one of which produces a seed.

Seeds: A single flower stalk can produce more than 4000 seeds and there is the likelihood of a large soil seed bank. Seeds can be viable up to 8 years. Seed set is late autumn to early spring. In particularly wet years flowering and seed set can occur over a large period of time.

Stems: Erect with and containing a white pith

Reproduction: Via rhizomes; stem fragments in flowing water; seeds.

Leaves: Blades are 10-45 cm x up to 3 cm which strongly clasp the stem at the base

Control Methods: Consider integrating control techniques by using herbicide, mechanical and good land management practices with regular follow-up treatments. There is no specific herbicide specifically registered for the control of hymenache. For further more detailed control methods see

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/77092/hymenachne.pdf

NOTE:

Care should be taken not to confuse Olive hymenachne with the native hymenachne (*Hymenache acutiguluma*) which are not invasive and are found in northern Australia, Papua New Guinea, Assam, Burma, Malaysia, Vietnam and Polynesia

Source:

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