

# Seen this plant?

## Coolatai grass

SOUTH EAST  
No Space for  
Weeds

*Hyparrhenia hirta*

**Regional Priority - Contain**



### How does this weed affect us?

- Coolatai grass is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock forming perennial grass.
- The weed has the capability to readily invade and dominate pastures and grazing land over a range of soil types and conditions. It significantly reduces farm carrying capacity and is of low digestibility and nutrient status.
- It is one of the few perennial grasses capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems and is a major threat in National Parks and nature reserves where it reduces both floral and fauna diversity.
- Coolatai grass also creates a fire hazard by producing large amounts of dry material that can generate into a large fuel load.

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Seen it?  
Call us:

NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline

1800 680 244

Illawarra District Weeds Authority 02 4233 1129

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:

[weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Coolataigrass](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Coolataigrass)





### Where are you likely to find it?

- Coolatai grass is a native of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is a major invasive species in northern NSW and is spreading south. In the Illawarra it is well established in Wollongong and Shellharbour being found as a weed of unimproved grazing lands, roadsides and neglected sites. Kiama has only occasional scattered infestations at this stage.
- It is a regional priority weed for containment and should be managed to prevent spread.

### How does it spread?

- Coolatai grass seeds are most commonly spread by wind, machinery, vehicles, water ways and sticking to animals' coats.

### What does it look like?

- Coolatai grass is a long-lived summer perennial grass that produces short rhizomes that form dense grass tussocks up to 1.5m in height.
- Leaves are greyish-green, turning orangery-red in winter. Leaves are flat with a prominent mid rib and harsh to touch.
- The seed head is a false panicle consisting of a pair of grey-white flower spikes (racemes).
- Plants flower in late spring and summer.

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