

Media Release:

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Last chance with Gamba Grass

Weed Management Officers from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) are urging all landholders to ensure action is taken to control gamba grass on Top End properties as the growing season comes to an end.

Gamba grass was declared a weed in 2008 and following the release of the Statutory *Weed Management Plan for Andropogon gayanus (Gamba Grass)* in 2010 all landholders are now required by law to control it.

NRETAS Principal Weeds Officer Steve Wingrave said gamba grass is an invasive and destructive weed when not adequately managed.

“If left untreated, a single gamba grass plant may produce up to 250,000 seeds per year” Mr Wingrave said.

Not only does it reproduce wildly, but once dry it also poses a huge fire risk and if left untreated future control efforts will be made more expensive and labour intensive.

“Over the season we have held a number of public demonstrations, showing landholders how to identify gamba grass, property weed planning and correct herbicide application techniques,”

“Spray units are available to all members of the public free of charge so we urge all landholders to take up this offer and help fight against this pest.”

For free assistance contact the Weed Management Branch on 8999 4567 or weedinfo.nretas@nt.gov.au

Media Note – for more information contact Steve Wingrave on 8999 4482 or 0428888204.

Image – Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*)

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