**Digitaria abyssinica**

**Ura**

**Ethiopia**

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AUTHOR(S): Etagegnehu G., Tamado T., Desalegn G., Negussie E.

EDITED BY: Plantwise

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**PEST MANAGEMENT DECISION GUIDE: GREEN AND YELLOW LIST**

**Control of East African Couch Grass in Orange Plantations**

Digitaria abyssinica Ura

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Direct Control</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Seeds and fragmented rhizomes are presumed to be important in the propagation and spread</td>
<td>• Perennial plant, with long slender branching rhizomes which form a dense mat beneath the soil surface. Leaves flat, up to 15 cm long and 2-8 mm wide. Inflorescences branched with 2 to 25 upwardly pointing, 2-11 cm long flower heads (‘branches’)</td>
<td>• Frequent slashing before flowering</td>
<td>• Use of chemical herbicides may lead to the development of herbicide resistance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Only use certified seed to avoid introduction through contamination</td>
<td>• Check in the plantation starting from two weeks after the main rain starts for presence of this pioneer coloniser</td>
<td>• Use of cover crops like haricot bean, cowpea, mung bean, Desmodium etc. to suppress the weed</td>
<td>• When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clean tools and farm machinery to prevent tubers being spread</td>
<td>• Deep hand hoeing during the dry season; burn the rhizomes</td>
<td>• Mulching with seed free straw</td>
<td>• Glyphosate (48%) at 4 L/ha applied on actively growing weeds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frequent slashing before flowering**

**Use of cover crops like haricot bean, cowpea, mung bean, Desmodium etc. to suppress the weed**

**Mulching with seed free straw**

**Deep hand hoeing during the dry season; burn the rhizomes**

**Flower and leaf (© Chris Parker)**

**Inflorescence of East African couchgrass (© Forest and Kim Starr)**

**East African Couchgrass (© Forest and Kim Starr)**