

# Control of East African Couch Grass in Orange Plantations

*Digitaria abyssinica* Ura



East African Couchgrass (© Forest and Kim Starr)



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



Flower and leaf (© Chris Parker)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeds and fragmented rhizomes are presumed to be important in the propagation and spread</li> <li>Only use certified seed to avoid introduction through contamination</li> <li>Clean tools and farm machinery to prevent tubers being spread</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, 2-11cm long flower heads ('branches')</li> <li>Check in the plantation starting from two weeks after the main rain starts for presence of this pioneer coloniser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent slashing before flowering</li> <li>Use of cover crops like haricot bean, cowpea, mung bean, Desmodium etc. to suppress the weed</li> <li>Mulching with seed free straw</li> <li>Deep hand hoeing during the dry season; burn the rhizomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of chemical herbicides may lead to the development of herbicide resistance.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Glyphosate (48%) at 4 L/ha applied on actively growing weeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO classification III (slightly hazardous)</li> <li>Prolific growth of annual broad-leaved weeds occurred where <i>D. abyssinica</i> had been controlled with glyphosate these would need subsequent control</li> </ul>



## Ethiopia

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

EDITED BY: Plantwise