

# Control of East African Couch Grass in Tef

*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> <li>Practice crop rotation with pulses and oil crops to reduce the establishment</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 crop fields starting from one week after sowing for presence of this pioneer coloniser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand weeding at least 2 times starting from three weeks after sowing until the crop canopy formed</li> <li>Deep tillage (&gt;12cm) in order to disturb as many of the rhizomes as possible. Do this under dry conditions so the exposed rhizomes desiccate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of chemical herbicides may lead to the development of herbicide resistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO classification III (slightly hazardous)</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>	



## Ethiopia

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