

African couch grass (Urwiri) in Maize

Digitaria abyssinica Urwiri (Kinyarwanda), Chiendent (French), African Couchgrass (English)



African couch grass © Forest and Kim Starr



Inflorescence of African couchgrass © Forest and Kim Starr



Flower and leaf © Chris Parker

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice deep tillage to ensure total removal of the plant including rhizomes and fragments as these contribute much to sprouting Use of certified and clean seeds Apply Phosphorous based fertilizers such as DAP in combination with organic manure at planting Practice intercropping maize with legumes such as beans or soyabeans Practice crop rotation (maize-sweet potato) to prevent establishment of the weed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for creeping grass with long, slender, branching rhizomes which form a dense mat beneath the soil surface. Lanceolate leaves, up to 15 cm long and 2-8 mm wide. Inflorescences branched with 2 to 25 upwardly pointing, 2-11cm long flower heads ('branches') Check for the presence of the weed 2 weeks after planting and take control action if found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice weeding (hoeing) two weeks after planting as a way to prevent the development of rhizomes and seed set Remove soil by shaking, spread the weed to allow them to dry out and decompose Do a second weeding 2 weeks after 1st weeding followed by the application of urea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of chemical herbicides may lead to the development of herbicide resistance. 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. Apply Glyphosate (Roundup) at 100ml/100L water (knapsack sprayer), use up to 3-6L/ha. Spray at the early seed-head stage when plants are actively growing. Use the low rate for suppression only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO Class III (slightly hazardous). Spray early in the season when the weeds are small, and preferably early in the morning; r.e.i: 24hrs; p.h.i: 14 days

Rwanda

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