

Digitaria abyssinica in Maize

Digitaria abyssinica. Sangari (Kiswahili), Ombugu (Luo), Thangari (Kikuyu), Ekenyambi (Ekegusii)



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"> Only use certified seed to avoid introduction through contamination Practice zero tillage in infested fields where possible, to prevent spread of the weed Restrict movement of seeds and fragmented rhizomes to uninfested area through cultivation implements (clean after use) and runoff water Practice crop rotation with leguminous crops, cassava, cotton and other perennial crops Plant cover crops such as beans, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and Dolichos lablab to prevent spread and suppress the weed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial grass with long, slender, branching rhizomes which form a dense mat beneath the soil surface. Leaves flat bluish-green colour, 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 rhizomes in the fields by digging upto 20 cm. Monitor spread from fallow land or hedges Monitor for young seedlings before they establish and mature. Leaves bare a conspicuous membranous legule at the junction of leaf sheath and blade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tillage with forked hoe; ensure complete removal of rhizomes Mechanical tillage with tractor to expose rhizomes on the soil surface to facilitate desiccation Intense use of field by poultry may reduce infestation 	<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 (20mL per litre of water), a systemic herbicide, to eradicate couch grass. Apply at 2L/ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prolific growth of annual broad-leaved weeds occur where <i>D. abyssinica</i> has been controlled with glyphosate. Glyphosate is WHO Class III (slightly hazardous)



Kenya

CREATED/UPDATED: 2016

AUTHOR(S): W.O. Kouko, V.N. Momanyi, B.N. Ita (KALRO)

EDITED BY: Plantwise