



Report this pest



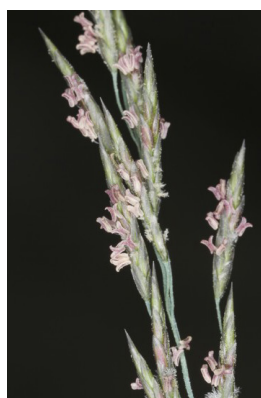
African love grass

Why is it a pest?

While its common name may make it sound friendly, unfortunately, African love grass isn't so loving, thriving on Otago's bare land. It also quickly invades areas where soil has been dug up or vegetation has been removed.

It forms thick stands (groups of plants) and suppresses other herbaceous plants (plants that don't have much wood). It produces lots of seeds, sheep don't like to eat it and it's difficult to spot.

Seeds are dispersed by wind, water and human activity through contamination of vehicles, livestock and clothing. There are more than 20 known African love grass sites across Otago.



What does it look like?

- **Size:** African love grass forms clumps of grass up to 1.5 metres tall.
- **Leaves:** It is thickly tufted with thin leaves (harsh to touch) that are usually curly at the tips. The leaves are bright green to blue-green (leaves turn bronze-red after a hard frost). Leaf sides roll inwards and are usually hairless.
- **Flowers:** The flower heads (panicles) are pyramid shaped with small white flowers. Its blackish, olive-purple seeds are attached to arching stems that are over one metre long.
- **Root system:** It has threadlike roots that can grow down to 50 centimetres deep.
- **Habitat:** Includes open areas, shrubland, grassland, coastal areas, cliffs, riparian margins, gravel beds, wasteland and roadsides.

Common name:

African love grass

Scientific name:

Eragrostis curvula

Management programme:

Progressive containment

The progressive containment programme aims to stop a pest from spreading and/or contain it to a certain area.



**Report
this pest!**

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest, you **must report** the sighting to us at **orc.govt.nz/reportpests**

When can I spot it best?

African love grass is most visible when the seed heads ripen in summer.

What are the rules?

To reduce the spread of known African love grass sites in Otago and minimise or prevent negative effects on economic wellbeing and the environment, African love grass is in the progressive containment programme of the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019–2029).

African love grass is declared an unwanted organism in the National Pest Plant Accord. This means it cannot be sold or be in a place where plants are being sold. It cannot be propagated, bred, multiplied, communicated, released, caused to be released, or otherwise spread.

What should I do?

Do not attempt to undertake control of African love grass yourself. Report any sightings to Otago Regional Council.



Report this pest



Help us find African love grass

You must notify Otago Regional Council if you suspect the presence of this pest.

If you think you've seen it:



Note the location



Take a photo
(if possible)



Report this pest
at **orc.govt.nz/reportpests**



For more information, visit **orc.govt.nz/africanlovegrass**

