Broad-Leaved paspalum  
*Paspalum mandiocanum*  
*(Non Restricted Invasive Weed)*

Broad-leafed paspalum is a robust grass that is unpalatable to cattle and horses. Graziers should be aware that it can invade pastures and replace palatable species. It will also grow in dense shade, with the possibility of dominating the ground layer of closed forests.

Originating from Brazil, this species is drought tolerant and grows rapidly after rainfall. It grows faster than, and can easily out-compete, more palatable pasture species. The tussocks are flat and spread outwards, smothering desirable but less competitive plants. It produces a large number of seeds, which have a high germination rate. Seeds can be spread via tools and equipment, vehicles, animals, soils, mulches and other materials.

It was found in cattle paddocks on the Atherton Tablelands in 2002 and on horticultural properties around Bellthorpe and Booroobin 2004. It has since been found on roadsides and properties across and around the Blackall Range region.

Broad-leafed paspalum is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

There are no legal requirements or restrictions on invasive weeds.

**Description**

The mature leaves are more than 10mm wide, bright (emerald) green, have a crinkled margin and a spreading habit. The lower 70-100mm of the leaves is maroon, burgundy or brown.

Flower stems can be over 1 m tall with up to 10 flower/seed stalks growing alternately down the stem. Ripe seed heads hang approximately at 45° if the stem is upright. Individual tussocks can grow to 1 m wide and easily spread sideways, as the stems contacting with the soil will form roots.

Plants can grow in open pastures, along roadside verges, bush margins and in deeply shaded areas of forests. Tussocks have a high degree of tolerance to mowing.

**Management**

Seedlings and smaller plants can be hand-pulled, bagged and disposed of at an appropriate waste management facility or composted. Gloves should be worn, as the leaves and seed heads may cause skin irritation. If manual control unsuccessful or large infestations, herbicide control may be required.