

# Cogongrass

## *Imperata cylindrica*

### Description

Considered one of the top 10 worst weeds in the world.

### Habit

Perennial, colony-forming grass with whitish, branched, scaly and sharp rhizomes.

### Leaves

Sheaths are short, glabrous or pubescent; blades are erect, narrow and pubescent at base; flat and glabrous above, 4 ft. long to less than 1 in. wide; whitish off-centered midvein; margins are scabrous and blade tips are sharp.

### Stems

3-10 feet long, spreading.

### Flowers

Plume-like, silky panicle, up to 8 inches long and 1.4 inches wide; several per branch, base circled with long hairs.

### Fruits and Seeds





0.14-0.17 in. long.

### **Habitat**

Native to southeast Asia, the Philippines, China and Japan. Can be found in degraded forests, grasslands, arable land, and young plantations.

### **Reproduction**

Reproduces vegetatively and by seed.

### **Similar**

Brazilian satintail (*Imperata brasiliensis*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Prescribed burning is not recommended, it is very resistant to heat and can trigger flowering and seed production. Rhizomes must be completely removed to prevent regrowth. Herbicides have shown varying success rates - Prometon, tebuthiuron and imazapyr being most successful.

### **Credits**

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