



Local Law Declared Pest Plant for K'gari

Mother-in-law's tongue

(Sansevieria trifasciata)



ORIGIN: Native to Nigeria.

DESCRIPTION: This is an upright, succulent plant that grows up to 60cm tall. Leaves are stiff, lance-shaped, dark green with mottled grey-green and yellow. Flowers are small, tubular (cream to green) and carried on spike. Fruit is small, round, orange berries, and seeds are oblong and pale brown. The rhizomes are bright orange, tick, fleshy and succulent.

SPREAD: The rhizomes spread via dumped garden waste, and seeds are spread by birds and other animals.

AREAS FOUND: Along roadsides and in gardens, disturbed areas, and riparian vegetation.

CONTROL METHODS: Carefully dig out isolated plants and small infestations, making sure to remove all roots and fragments. This requires persistent effort, regular site monitoring, and removal of any new growth and its rhizome.

There is no herbicide currently registered for the control of this plant.

OBLIGATION OF LANDOWNERS: A local law declared pest plant is one that has been targeted for control under Local Government legislation. This provides for the protection of the environment, public health, safety, and amenity within the local government's area.


Declaration under the Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011, and Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011 imposes a legal responsibility for control by all landowners on K'gari.

All landowners on K'gari have an obligation to:

- Eradicate where possible.
- Prevent the spread; and
- Reduce the existing size of infestations, particularly where they have or could have significant economic, environmental, or social impact. This declaration also prohibits the sale, introduction, or propagation of Mother-in-law's tongue on K'gari.


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