

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process¹ for: *Eragrostis curvula*

The 2022/23/24, a number of species from the EPPO Observation List were re-prioritized with current information to assess if they should remain on the Observation List or moved to another List. This is the 2024 prioritization summary for *Eragrostis curvula* where the outcome is the species should remain on the Observation List.

Section A. Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

A.1 Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes: *Eragrostis curvula* is native to Africa (EPPO, 2009).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)

Yes, *Eragrostis curvula* is established in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal (including Madeira), Spain, United Kingdom

A.3 Is the plant species known to be invasive outside the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.4 Based on ecoclimatic conditions, could the species establish in the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.5 How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High spread potential with moderate uncertainty: Reports in the EPPO region suggest the species is rapidly expanding its distribution, for example in Portugal (Carapeto, 2016). Seed is spread short distances by wind and between areas by machinery and used equipment. The plant is available in horticulture which can lead to international movement.

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

Medium with a high uncertainty: In Japan, the species has colonized floodplain habitats, and is reported to exert a strong negative influence on the development of riparian endemic plants and associated arthropods (grasshoppers). In Australia and the USA, the species forms dense monospecific stands up to 1.2 m high, threatening the regeneration of native species and posing a fire hazard during dry months (Schlienzauer et al., 2021). *E. curvula* seems to exhibit aggressive behaviour in Spain, invasive monospecific populations have been observed in Cataluña, between Seu d'Urgell and Puigcerdà. It is also reported from the Canary Islands but without any further details (EPPO, 2009). No specific impacts have been reported for the EPPO region though the grass has the potential to outcompete native plant species.

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

Medium with a moderate uncertainty: In degraded pastures, *E. curvula* causes a reduction in preferred pasture species, being itself unpalatable, which reduces the quality of pastures.

¹ EPPO (2012) EPPO Prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin 42, 463-474.

A.8 How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Moderate with a moderate uncertainty: *Eragrostis curvula* can increase fire spread in areas it invades (Gucker, 2009).

Outcome of Section A: *Eragrostis curvula* is included on the EPPO Observation List

		A5 -Spread potential		
		Low	Medium	High
Adverse impacts (maximum rating from questions A6, A7 and A8.	Low	List of minor concern	List of minor concern	List of minor concern
	Medium	List of minor concern	Observation List	Observation List
	High	Observation List	Observation List	List of invasive alien plants

Eragrostis curvula is not considered further. The assessment stops here.

B. Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1 Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

B.2 Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

B.3 Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Outcome of section B: -

Selected references

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