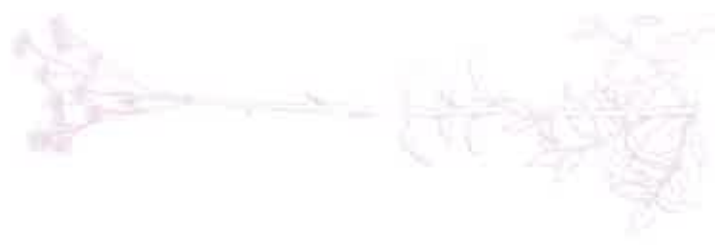


healthy, productive state to help keep pompom out (consult the webpage for details); don't overgraze

- Researchers are selecting biological control agents, i.e. host-specific and damaging insects and fungi to reduce the invasiveness of pompom weed



Compiled by Hildegard Klein and designed by Elsa van Niekerk, ARC-PPRI.



# POMPOM is stealing Africa's grasslands

*- don't let it!*

More information at [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za)

(Look for "Pompom Weed" under "Quick Links")

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Water Affairs and Forestry  
Agriculture  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism



*An invasive plant from  
South America.*

*Flowering from December to  
March.*





Pompom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*) is an invasive plant from South America. It is very visible when flowering, from December to March.

### The problem



- Pompom weed degrades and replaces grasslands, the food source of livestock and game
- It invades wetlands, thus reducing our water supplies
- It threatens indigenous plants and small animals

### How can something so pretty become a problem?

- It was introduced without its natural enemies
- It establishes in disturbed sites
- It produces a profusion of seeds that travel far on the wind
- Small patches of the weed soon enlarge and exclude indigenous plants
- Its nutrient-packed roots resist all attempts to kill it
- Its perennial roots make it frost-hardy and fire-resistant
- Fires make it grow better by removing competing vegetation



### What can I do to help?

- Don't pick the flowers - you'll spread the seeds
- Don't plant pompom weed in your garden
- Look out for new patches of pompom weed and control them (see below how)
- Make your neighbours and local authorities aware of the threat of pompom weed



### Control measures

- Control single plants or small patches now - next year it will be much harder
- Place flower heads into plastic garbage bags to burn, to prevent the seeds from spreading
- If the soil is soft enough, dig out the plant including the root crown (the point at which the roots are attached to the stem)
- Alternatively, spray the plants with one of the registered herbicides (consult the webpage for details)
- Keep the natural vegetation in a

