

# Job's tears *Coix lacryma-jobi*

## Declaration

**Regional priority weed objective: Eradication**

**This plant is highly invasive, contact your local weed biosecurity officer to report this weed. Protect our region's unique biodiversity, aquatic species and riparian zones.**

Job's tears is a highly invasive clumping grass that grows along waterways, damp areas and in roadside ditches. Native to tropical Asia, it is now spreading rapidly along two Northern Rivers' creek systems. Job's tears displaces native aquatic plants and blocks waterways, significantly impacting the water quality and the health of local riparian zones.



## Description

Job's tears are 1-2m tall grass clumps that resemble corn stalks. The upright stems are relatively thick and produce prop roots from their lower joints. The large leaves are 10-50cm long and 2-5cm wide and alternately arranged with a stem-clasping base. These leaves are mostly hairless, but their margins may be fringed with fine hairs.

They have clustered seed-heads in the upper leaf forks and contain separate male and female parts. Flowering usually commences in December, with fruit being produced through until June. The smooth, shiny bead-like fruit (5-15mm long and 6-10mm wide) usually become hard and bony as they mature. They may be white, bluish-grey, greyish-brown, yellow, orange, reddish, or blackish in colour.

## Habitat

Job's tears forms large and dense clumps along waterways. It also commonly grows in roadside ditches and other damp sites, i.e. wetlands, marshes, moist fields, etc.



## Reproduction and dispersal

The shiny bead-like fruit are dispersed through the deliberate cultivation and the use of its seeds for a variety of purposes. Seeds may also be dispersed by water, particularly down waterways during floods. It is possible the seeds are also dispersed by birds and animals.

## Quick facts

- Large clumping grass often growing up to 2m tall.
- Usually grows along waterways and in other damp sites.
- Relatively thick, jointed stems with prop roots near the base.
- Bead-like fruit that are usually white, grey, or blackish in colour.



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### How you can help

Check high-risk pathways - along waterways and in damp areas.

For suspected sightings, contact your local Weed Biosecurity Officer on (02) 6623 3800, or go to [rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed](https://rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed)



Seen it?



Snap it.



Send it!



For further information contact:

Rous County Council  
02 6623 3800

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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