



# Whisky Grass

(*Andropogon virginicus*) Origin: USA

**How to recognise it:** This grass dies off in winter, and turns to an orangey straw. In spring it regrows but is unnoticeable until just before Easter when it sends up very straight green stems on which the fluffy seed heads soon appear. After seeding these stems go to straw.

**Weed status:** A very invasive, perennial weed but can be only noticeable if the site has been cleared or burnt or is an 'edge' like a road. Readily spread by wind and machinery. (Said to have been spread to Australia after being used as packing for whisky bottles from Virginia).

**Control:** Treat when green stems rise prior to Easter – but do it prior to seeding. If it has seeded or is flowering, remove and bag the heads and knife out the 'crown'. Can spray with 1:100 glyphosate (or Fusilade herbicide, the latter which doesn't affect broad leaved species) but getting lots of helpers is best. (We have been having working bees since 2009 and it is declining markedly.)

**Location at Korinderie.** The main infestation was in the Kissing Tree paddock (old 'orchard') probably brought in on bee boxes. Now much reduced after 4 years of 'Whisky festivals'. Also scattered along Western boundary, dam and Rod's. Previously seen and controlled at front gate and various locations along road. So look out for it...it could be anywhere as it is wind dispersed.