

Beechwood Biological Solutions Newsletter

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Native Soil Fungus an “*agricultural chemical?*”



Despite the fact that the native soil fungus *Nigrospora oryzae* has been spread around by transplanting infected plants for nearly two decades without any off-target impacts, the APVMA has now decided it requires registration as an agricultural chemical.

Parra Trooper is a concentrated source of *Nigrospora oryzae*. It is easier to use, works more rapidly and is safer because it does not have the potential to introduce weed seed or soil-borne disease.

Without registration, Parra Trooper cannot be sold or promoted for the purpose of controlling giant Parramatta grass or giant rat's tail grass

While we understand the need to keep tabs on the introduction of diseases, the AgVet Code surely wasn't intended to prevent the distribution of a widespread native soil fungi. We have a unique situation, where a native fungus causes disease in a group of closely related introduced plants.

Giant Parramatta grass, giant rat's tail grass and close relatives threaten 223 million hectares of pasture and cost us more than \$60 million annually.

YOU CAN HELP get this natural control back to work by signing the [petition](#) to exempt this natural native soil fungus from regulation under the AgVet Code. Please also consider a quick call or [email](#) to your local Federal MP and the Minister for Agriculture.



THANK YOU to all of you who have already sent an email and signed the petition. There are already 400 of you in just three days. Let's keep up the momentum!

PLEASE SHARE this newsletter and link to the [campaign page](#) with your networks. Don't just "like" it, **SHARE** it and make a brief comment.

Visit the campaign page on our website, you'll find a [short video](#) there explaining our arguments.

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