

Beechwood Biological Solutions Newsletter

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The latest in Parra Trooper

*With Spring upon us, we thought you'd want to know what's happening with Parra Trooper and the push to have the native fungus *Nigrospora oryzae* exempted from regulation under the AgVet Code.*

The campaign continues for a change in the legislation to allow this native fungus to be used for the control of Giant Parramatta Grass and Giant Rat's Tail Grass. *Nigrospora oryzae* is a widespread native soil fungus that naturally and often spontaneously induces a crown rot in these weed species

As Botanist Jan Carson points out, "*Nigrospora oryzae* will control *Sporobolus* in terms of evolution anyway - it's a native species. This [Parra Trooper] gives us the opportunity to speed the process a thousandfold and stem the invasion now facing almost everyone with pasture land."

Special thanks go to so many of you who signed the petition and wrote to the Minister for Agriculture and your local MP. Dr David Gillespie, our local federal MP will be tabling the paper petition in the Australian parliament (600+ signatures). Unfortunately the on-line petition is not valid for presentation to the parliament, but the nearly 900 of you who signed it clearly demonstrate support for amending the law to exempt *Nigrospora oryzae* from regulation.

You can still go to our [website](#), get informed and follow the [link](#) to text you can include in a letter to the Minister for Agriculture and your local federal MP.

Whilst we still hold the opinion that it is crazy for this native soil fungus to require registration, we know you need access to it, so we are working through the procedure.

Dr Gillespie is working with us towards obtaining a permit from the APVMA to use Parra Trooper for the purpose of controlling giant Parramatta grass and giant rat's tail grass.

NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Farmers and others are helping us get the information together that we will need to support the issue of a permit.

Many of you will have seen the correspondence from the APVMA advising they are working with us. This is true, if you consider two months taken for us to get fobbed off to another department so that we had to start explaining the situation all over again. This delay followed an assurance that we would receive some sort of an indication of their thinking within the week. Now that we have been told that we could apply for a Minor Use Permit (MUP) it has been more than two weeks, and counting, waiting for a login to commence the formal application process.

We were told that the 'best' that we could hope for was a determination on our MUP application in nine months. If the past three months is any indication of the obstructions that we could face, it may be some time before we have Parra Trooper on the market for the purpose of controlling giant Parramatta grass and giant rat's tail grass.

The madness is that *Nigrospora oryzae*, used as soil ameliorant, is exempt from APVMA regulation but as soon as it is promoted, supplied or used for the purpose of controlling a weed it is regarded as an "agricultural chemical".

Please keep up the pressure on our elected decision-makers, like us on [facebook](#) and subscribe to our [newsletter](#) for updates.

You're always welcome to give us a call about Parra Trooper on 0448 562 024.
Thanks again for your support