

Terrestrial Herbaceous Plants Species Assessment Group - Summary of group ratings

Date: 09/25/2007

Species: Reed canary grass

Members of the SAG: (Facilitator) Mindy Habecker, (DNR leader) Kelly Kearns, (notetaker) Chris Reyes, George Radtke, Clarissa Hammond, Jim Merriman, Jerry Doll, John Stier, Steve Richter, Dick Garbe, Craig Annen, John Petty (for Doug

| Ratings for Criteria - 1st round | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|
| 1. Current status and distribution | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 2. Establishment potential | 4 | 3 | 4 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 3. Damage potential | 4 | 3 | 4 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 4. Prevention and control potential | 3 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 5. Socio-economic impacts | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Totals - Initial ratings | Prohibited | | | | Restricted | | | | Watch | | | | Non-restricted | | |
| Number of votes | | | | | xx | | | | | | | | xxxxxx | | |

Recommended Classification : Initially recommended non-restricted

Comments:
 "Manage to prevent seed production." (6) Two variegated cultivars sold commercially, but <\$1000/yr for one business, some evidence of seeding with reversion to green form.
 (8) Based on surveys and price assessments done by Dan Undersander, UW Agronomy, the following is a conservative estimate of the value of reed canary grass to WI agriculture. Approximately 500,000 acres of RCG in WI harvested as hay (4 Tons/acre, \$80/Ton = \$160,000,000/yr) That is 3 times the economic value of X-mas trees in WI. Also, 10-20,000 lbs/yr seed (\$8-9/lb, \$80-90,000/yr) harvested and sold within WI, primarily for upland hay fields. RCG is the most drought tolerant of pasture grasses. It is a critical species for many farmers, especially grazers. Permits not feasible for the 5,000+ farms harvesting or planting it (assuming 100 acre/farm). Potential value for cellulose ethanol (biofuel) production (produces 2x's the ethanol of switchgrass). Recommend statutory authority to allow DATCP to require a caution statement on the seed label--"inva

| Totals - 2nd round | Prohibited | Restricted | Watch | Non-restricted |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------|----------------|
| Number of votes | | | | |

Final Recommended Classification : After second meeting, recommended "Pending further review"

Comments:
 * DATCP seed label with caution: "Invasive, do not plant in environmentally sensitive areas. Manage to prevent seed production."