

**Weed Management Plan Example 1. Rope twitch**

<b>Common Name</b>	Rope Twitch		
<b>Status</b>	Rope twitch is a significant weed of crops, pastures and gardens on the Tasmanian non-declared weeds index. <a href="https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/non-declared-weeds-index/rope-twitch-(or-english-couch-grass)">https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/non-declared-weeds-index/rope-twitch-(or-english-couch-grass)</a>		
<b>Location &amp; Distribution</b>	Outer perimeter of market garden - dense and creeping into beds	Internal areas around northern garden beds - starting to appear	Internal areas around eastern garden beds - starting to appear
<b>Priority</b>	3	1	2
<b>Management Considerations</b>	<p>It is a perennial light green grass with a vast number of below ground white stems (rhizomes). The tips of the leaves are pointy and it is a tough weed that grows very quickly. If you break the weed or leave a little bit of rhizome in the ground it will grow into a new plant. Twitch grows via the rhizomes under the ground. The rhizomes are shallow (10 cm deep) and your best bet is to remove the whole plant plus soil surrounding the plant and to not leave any rhizome in the soil.</p> <p>We farm using organic principles so treatment must not include chemicals.</p> <p>Important to keep on top on management.</p>		
<b>Treatment</b>	<p>Method 1 - Use a trowel to loosen the soil around the roots and then gently and slowly hand pull the weed out. Start at the edge of your growing area and work your way inward. If you break the rhizome ensure you remove the broken section (even an inch long left in the soil can continue to grow). If you miss any Twitch and you see new shoots growing within a couple of months, and then remove the Twitch using the same method.</p> <p>Method 2 - Smother the Twitch with tarps and make sure no light gets through. Leave the cover until the Twitch dies (approximately five months).</p>		

Action Plan				
Date	Location	Treatment	Resources	Results
Jan 2021	Internal areas around northern garden beds	Using hand tools to dig out areas where the grass was starting to creep	4 hours of labour	Eliminated from area for the time being
Jan 2021	Internal areas around eastern garden beds	Using hand tools to dig out areas where the grass was starting to creep	4 hours of labour	Eliminated from area for the time being
March 2021	Internal areas around northern garden beds	Using hand tools to dig out areas where the grass was starting to creep	2 hours of labour	Eliminated from area for the time being
March 2021	Internal areas around eastern garden beds	Using hand tools to dig out areas where the grass was starting to creep	1.5 hours of labour	Eliminated from area for the time being
June 2021	Internal areas around northern garden beds	Worst affected beds tarped	1 hour of labour. Will leave for 4 months over winter and early spring	
	Internal areas around eastern garden beds	Worst affected beds tarped	1 hour of labour. Will leave for 4 months over winter and early spring	
	Perimeter of market garden	Tarped	3 hours of labour. Will leave for 4 months over winter and early spring	