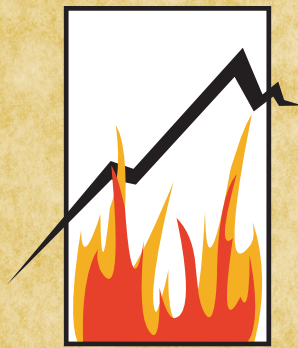


**Buffelgrass** is a perennial bunchgrass that has the potential to transform the Sonoran Desert into a fire-prone savannah.



**How to I.D. Buffelgrass:** Hairy ligule, rough rachis, bottlebrush seed head



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**Buffelgrass**  
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## *Background*

- Perennial C4 bunchgrass from Africa/S. Asia
- Individual plants can live 20 years
- Swollen stem bases allow it to store carbohydrates and survive grazing, drought and fire
- Seeds are viable for up to 4 years
- Dormant in dry seasons (straw colored)
- Thrives in warm weather
- Fountain Grass is an equally problematic relative

## *Why Buffelgrass is a problem*

- Buffelgrass will become the dominant plant and convert the desert into a flammable grassland
- Outcompetes native plants (with or without fire)
- Burns as part of its normal life cycle (> 1400 °F)
- Burns fast (the length of a football field in 3 minutes)
- Buffelgrass recovers quickly after burning, while native plants do not





# Buffelgrass Management

Two strategies (singly or in combination) are effective in managing buffelgrass.

Manual extraction reduces the fire risk immediately. Herbicide is effective for large areas.

## Manual Treatment

### Equipment:

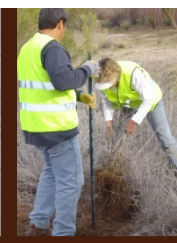
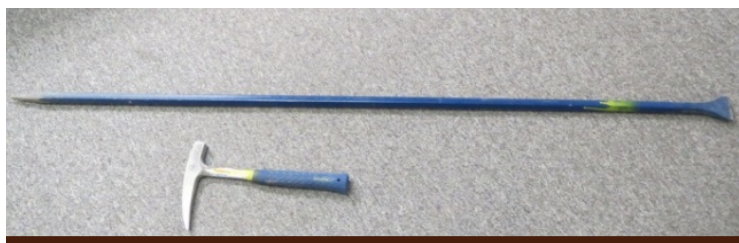
- Digging bar
- Rock hammer
- Pick axe
- Large garbage bags

### Advantages:

- Immediately removes fire risk
- Minimal equipment and skill needed
- Can be done any time

### Disadvantages:

- Time consuming
- Impractical for large areas



## Herbicide Treatment

### Equipment:

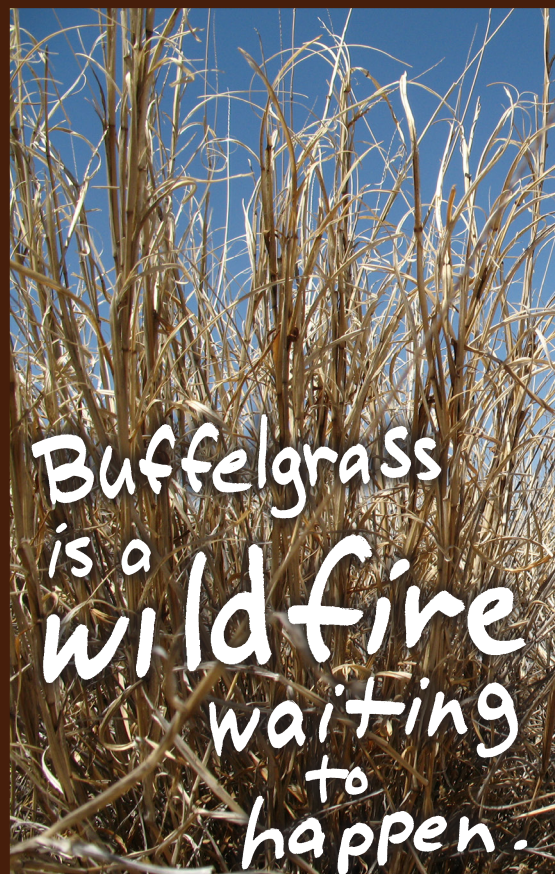
- Backpack sprayers
- Vehicle mounted sprayers

### Advantages:

- Successfully kills buffelgrass
- Over the counter herbicides can be used effectively

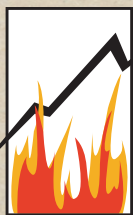
### Disadvantages:

- Does not immediately remove fire risk.
- Weather dependent. Buffelgrass must be green, which can be a very narrow window during the monsoon season.



Mowing disperses buffelgrass seed and encourages seed production on shorter stems. It is strongly discouraged except to generate new growth which can then be sprayed with herbicide.

With the manual removal or the use of herbicides, it is necessary to follow up after any rain to remove or spray the new seedlings since the seeds are viable in the soil up to 4 years.



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[www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org) — For more buffelgrass and management options.

[info@buffelgrass.org](mailto:info@buffelgrass.org) — For help with your specific requirements.

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