Amazing Grazing

Preventative Measures Against Invasive Species

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Biological methods are effective against many of the plants mentioned above; however, this method needs to be controlled to ensure that it does not cause damage to other areas. For example: Cactoblastis moth is used to control prickly pear.

It is important to **clean shoes, clothes, machinery, and livestock** thoroughly before approaching grassland to prevent the spread as much as possible. Humans, animals, or any type of equipment can transport invasive seeds.

Poisoning with herbicides is not just the easiest but also the most dangerous method. There is *a high chance of polluting creeks, streams, killing native insects, animals, vegetation, and livestock.*

Manual removal and **ploughing in** are the methods that can be used on the daily basis. While manual removal is suitable against small areas, ploughing is useful against wide areas. However, *ploughing cannot be done during the wet weather and can cause soil erosion.*

Biological control can be used to control various pests usings natural predators, disease-carrying bacteria or viruses, and parasites. **For example:** myxomatosis and rabbit calicivirus disease are used to control feral rabbits.

Shooting feral animals are one of the solutions that can be taken into a consideration. To ensure that this method is successful, hunters need to be hired to eliminate half of the animal population every year.

Large areas can be covered with **fences** to prevent feral animals, like cattle, goats, buffaloes, etc., from accessing pastures. **Electric fences** can be used to protect small areas of high conservation value. However, this method has a *high cost of building and maintaining.*

Traps can be used to catch animals. It is advised to use grain as a bait to attract animals or place them around watering holes. This method is effective against feral pigs and goats. Traps need to be checked daily, so they are *ineffective against wide areas.*

Poison can be used to control feral pigs, rabbits, and foxes. This method needs to be used with caution because *there are risks of poisoning non-targeted animals, livestock or plants.*