Recognize the problem
Kapinga (Bermuda grass) is a flat growing grassy weed with short, flat, thin and green unstructured leaves, like thin long triangles. Kapinga has many flat branches that spread on the soil surface. If uncontrolled, Kapinga will completely cover the ground. Kapinga competes with maize for nutrients.

Background
Kapinga continuously grows over the ground. It can be grazed by cattle, but is a difficult weed to control in maize as it spreads by seeds and pieces of the plant that are cut from the main plant during land preparation. Farming implements encourage its spread. Thus, to control it you can either not prepare the soil, or use herbicides like Glyphosate and Atrazine.

- Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that kills all plants, also crops. Thus, it must be sprayed before a crop is grown. Glyphosate has to be taken up by the leaves of the kapinga in order to act. It has no effect on seeds of kapinga and becomes inactivated if it comes in contact with the soil or mud. Glyphosate is moderately poisonous to humans, but has no effect on bees or fish.
- Atrazine kills germinating kapinga but has no effect on readily-grown kapinga. Atrazine has no effect on maize when used at correct rate, but does affect beans, groundnuts, soyabean, pumpkins, tobacco and cotton. Therefore, these crops must not be intercropped with maize or planted in rotation until 2 years after spray. Atrazine is moderately poisonous to humans but has no effect on bees or fish.

Management
- Use Glyphosate and Atrazine in the management of kapinga.
- Read the labels of the herbicides before use and follow the instructions.
- Use personal protective equipment at all times during the mixing, spraying of herbicides, and cleaning sprayers.
- Spray glyphosate on the actively growing kapinga leaves two or more days after rain at 240ml in 16l of clean water (double check label for rates).
  - Walk at 1 meter per second (slow walking speed) while spraying.
  - Do not spray glyphosate after emergence of maize as it will kill it.
  - Do not spray glyphosate when it is windy to avoid drift into the neighbour’s fields as it will kill every green crop it comes in contact with.
  - A day later or more, regardless of the farming practice (zero tillage, minimum tillage or conventional farming), plant your maize.
- Then, before or after maize germination, thoroughly spray Atrazine at 320ml in a 16l of water over the soil of the field.
  - Walk at 1 meter per second (slow walking speed) while spraying.
  - Ensure that the soil surface is moist to allow activation of the herbicide.
- If Kapinga re-appears later in the seasons, mechanically control it, but collect all grass pieces.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.