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Prevention of *Imperata* invasion in upland cultivated fields in the montane forest of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Upland crop cultivation in Southeast Asia is vulnerable to *Imperata* grass invasion. This study in Central Sulawesi demonstrates that *Imperata* can be combated by costly cultivation practices such as deep plowing or herbicide application. But *Imperata* invasion of a field may be avoided by improving the soil fertility status from the onset of cropping to avoid the depletion of soil nutrients to levels limiting crop productivity. The key lies in applying the nutrients in the infested fields that make the crop competitive and achieve an optimum yield, in the study region primarily potassium. Currently, once no economic returns can be derived from farming the fields, farmers abandon the land and seek other potential cultivation areas in the forest leaving the fields to *Imperata*.