

Nassella tussock

Nassella trichotoma

Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of Nassella tussock you must report the sighting to Environment Southland immediately.

What is council doing about this?

Nassella tussock is not currently known to be present in Southland. If there is an incursion Environment Southland will co-ordinate a response. Control will be done free of charge by an Environment Southland Biosecurity Officer or an approved contractor.

What does it look like?

Nassella tussock is a perennial tussock-forming grass with fine-bladed, wiry leaves that are rough to the touch. It grows up to one metre tall and one metre wide. The thin, round blades are extremely tough and don't break when pulled. The blades are light green, while the drooping seed heads have a purplish tinge.

Nassella tussock establishes in open sites like pasture, disturbed shrubland, tall and short tussockland, bare land, river systems, and rocky and coastal areas. In New Zealand it occurs most frequently in drought-prone grasslands, particularly in South Canterbury and Otago.

Why is it a problem?

Nassella tussock is tolerant to drought, fire and grazing but does not tolerate shade, salinity or water-logging. It can form pure stands in low-growing plant communities such as pasture, preventing other species from establishing.

Nassella tussock reproduces by seed and each mature plant can produce more than 100,000 seeds per year.

Nassella tussock adversely affects production values due to reduced pasture quality and can also have an affect on environmental values by displacing native species in tussock grassland.



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Control methods

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE SEEN OR SUSPECT NASELLA TUSSOCK WITHIN SOUTHLAND YOU MUST NOTIFY ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND.

Combinations of cultivation, herbicides, fertilizer, oversowing and removing stock can reduce number of plants. See <https://agpest.co.nz/?pesttypes=nassella-tussock-serrated-tussock> for further details.

Physical control:

- Grub (all year round): Remove soil from roots. Leave on site to rot down.

Herbicide control:

- Spray dense spots amongst desirable broadleaved species (spring-summer): haloxyfop (5ml/L + crop oil).
- Spray dense infestations only (all year round): glyphosate (15ml/L + penetrant).

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

Plants with seed must be buried deeply, burnt, or disposed of at a refuse transfer station. Follow up at six-monthly intervals to complete eradication.

Related links

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/626/Nassella>

Weedbusters <http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/nassella-tenuissima/59/>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3231

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Nassella-trichotoma.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species_id=39627

Summary of rules

If you detect or suspect the presence of *Nassella tussock* within the Southland region, you must immediately report its presence and location to Environment Southland.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 2).

You can not possess, keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour *Nassella tussock* within the Southland Region.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 3).

Management programme

Exclusion

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=196>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=196>