

Serrated Tussock

Serrated Tussock is regarded as one of the worst grass weeds within the Mid-Western Regional area, due to its quick-spreading ability and zero grazing value to stock. Infestations result in a significant loss in production, and dense infestations can completely dominate pasture.

WHAT IS SERRATED TUSSOCK?

Serrated Tussock (*Nassella Trichotoma*) is a grass weed that spreads rapidly. Mature plants can produce more than 140,000 seeds per year which are dispersed mainly by wind, allowing heads to be carried for up to 20 kilometres. Animals, machinery and feeds from infested properties also disperse the seeds.

It is estimated that in NSW alone this weed has caused losses of up to \$40 million in lost production.

Due to the high fibre and low protein content of Serrated Tussock, stock are unable to digest it. A paddock infested with this weed can lead to malnourished stock, as well as competition with pasture grasses in drought conditions.

IDENTIFYING SERRATED TUSSOCK

Serrated Tussock is similar in appearance to some native grasses. In spring the clumps are light green with brown tips to the leaves. In late spring and early summer the clumps have a purple tinge when the seed heads emerge fully. Plants remain green in summer when other grasses turn brown. Frost will then turn clumps a golden yellow. It is a perennial grass, which has a long lived, deep, fibrous root system.



SERRATED TUSSOCK WITH PURPLE TINGED FLOWER HEAD



A Paddock TAKEN OVER BY SERRATED TUSSOCK



MAIN INFESTATIONS ARE IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN TABLELANDS OF NSW

Images: NSW DPI

CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF SERRATED TUSSOCK

It is essential that neighbouring properties work together when controlling Serrated Tussock. Once established, it is extremely difficult to manage, but can be controlled by:

- Application of a registered herbicide – available from local suppliers
- Pasture management
- Physical removal

PREVENTION MEASURES

- ! Be aware of Serrated Tussock and the risks
- ! Do not purchase any stock or feed from contaminated areas
- ! Wash all machinery which has been in contact with the weed
- ! Reduce intrusion from windblown seeds by planting windbreaks
- ! Know how to identify Serrated Tussock

GET THE FREE WEEDS APP

NSW Department of Primary Industries has developed an app that provides key information to help users reduce the impact of over 300 weeds in NSW, called NSW Weedwise.

Users, ranging from home gardeners and residents to farmers, land managers and weeds professionals, can search or browse weed names (common or scientific); recognise a weed by its physical description and image gallery; and find out about its impacts, where it occurs, how it spreads and its preferred habitat.

Control options are described for each weed and the herbicides registered for control by the Australian

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Council's website www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au, or the Department of Primary Industries website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and search 'weeds'. Council's Weeds Team are available to assist on 6378 2939 or at weeds.admin@midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this fact sheet is general in nature and should not be relied upon as the complete source of information to be considered. This document is not intended as a substitute for consulting relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Land owners under the Biosecurity Act 2015 have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) where they are expected to, within reason know about any weeds which may impact their land. Owners should have a plan of management in place to reduce, minimise or eliminate the risk posed by weeds on their property.

When reporting Serrated Tussock the infected area will be inspected by Council along with a management plan strategy. A follow-up inspection will then be arranged. Council is responsible for enforcing the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its regulations. This includes fines for failure to comply with GBD.



COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

When a sighting of Serrated Tussock is reported, the infected area will be inspected by a Council Weeds Officer. A management plan will be discussed, and a repeat inspection will be arranged.

Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority are listed, including application rates and techniques, and any minor-use permits that must be complied with.

General, State or Regional biosecurity duties under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are displayed for each weed.

