

Nassella tussock

(*Nassella trichotoma* and *N. tenuissima*)

Is Nassella tussock on your property?

Nassella tussock is included in Horizon's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Zero-Density plant. All infestations will be controlled to Zero-density as and when they are found. Zero-Density means the control of the pest plant to the last individual. Pest plant species that are limited in distribution will fall under this objective. If you see any plants growing in the Region, or have difficulty with identification of weed grasses, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



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Identification

Perennial grass forming dense tussocks with fibrous roots. Thin, round, extremely tough leaves do not break when pulled, are light green, erect or drooping and rough to touch.

Small white sheath under brown covering. No auricles. Drooping flowering stems to 1m carry open panicle seed heads November.-January. Seeds purple when ripe with 3 cm long bristle.

Weedy characteristics

Long lived and excludes other species, producing masses of highly viable, long-life, well dispersed seed. Grass cannot be digested by animals. Tolerates heat, cold, poor soils, damp and drought, wind, salt, fire and damage. Intolerant to shade and waterlogged soils.

Methods of dispersal

Seeds spread by wind, livestock and clothing, machinery and milled plantation logs.

Impact on indigenous plants

Forms pure stands in low-growing plant communities, especially on harsh sites. Prevents regeneration of desirable species.

Typical habitats

Tussockland, bare land, riverbanks, coastal and rocky areas, pasture, potentially throughout New Zealand.

Control

1. Grub and remove soil from roots and mulch. All year round.
2. Spray dense infestations with glyphosate 1.5% + penetrant. All year round.

Site management

Do not graze or burn, exclude all livestock. After control, plant dense low cover where appropriate. Follow up on open sites for at least 10 years. Avoid spraying where possible as plant reseeds prolifically into bare ground.

Species recovery

Rootstocks not completely cleared will resprout. Bare areas reseed rapidly. Fire enhances seeding.

For more information please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.

