



## Weed Management Information

### Serrated tussock

**Botanical name:** *Nassella trichotoma*

**Weed Class:** Class 4 noxious weed

**Legal requirements:** The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that reduces its numbers, spread and incidence and continuously inhibits its reproduction and the plant must not be sold propagated or knowingly distributed.

#### Control options

Effective control of serrated tussock requires the prevention of seeding for over ten years and the elimination of sources of reinfestation. Pasture improvement and maintenance of good vegetation cover combined with herbicide treatment is the favoured method of control on grazing lands.

**Chipping:** Chip scattered tussocks in autumn, winter or spring before they seed. In wet conditions, remove soil from the roots, scatter pasture seed and superphosphate. Bag and burn or bury any seed heads.

**Afforestation:** Radiata pine or hardwood plantings suppress serrated tussock germinations after about ten years and have proved to be an economic option in parts of New South Wales. Canopy cover must be maintained to minimise serrated tussock germinations.

**Chemical control:** Use a herbicide that is registered for use on serrated tussock in NSW in a manner and rate stated on the label (or current pesticide order). Seek advice from a Council Vegetation Officer or your herbicide supplier. Ensure the chosen product is suitable for the designated land use and situation and will not affect other management plans. Please observe all environmental and safety cautions that are stated on the label.

**Biological control:** Initial investigations have been undertaken to identify pathogens which may be suitable for development as bio-herbicides and to find native insects which attack this grass. No biological control agents are currently available.

**Cultivation and pasture re-establishment:** Remove the top-growth in winter by burning or slashing and plough with a mouldboard or disc plough to a depth of 10 cm to turn tussocks over. Further cultivation will be necessary as serrated tussock seedlings germinate in order to prepare a seedbed prior to sowing in the following autumn or winter. Top-dressing with superphosphate is very important as most pasture species respond better to phosphorus than serrated tussock. Establishing a dense competitive pasture will minimise serrated tussock germinations.

#### Description

Large, long-lived tussocks grass approximately 50 cm high, 15 to 25 cm diameter at base. Mature plants have drooping leaves that may extend plant diameter to 50 or 75 cm.

**Stems:** Much-branched, initially erect, up to 95 cm long, twice as long as leaves. Droop at maturity to touch the ground.

**Leaves:** Numerous, thin, fine, 0.5 mm diameter, to 50 cm long, tightly rolled, appearing circular in cross-section, with small serrations, Green in summer, yellow-green in winter, base white.

**Flowers:** The flowering heads are carried on slender stalks slightly longer than the leaves, each floret, purple in colour, produces one seed, about 2 mm long, pale straw coloured during summer (Oct-Jan)

**Dispersal:** Seeds prolifically, spreads rapidly, seed-heads carried along the ground by wind like tumbleweeds; also by moving water, on machinery and equipment and coats of livestock

Be vigilant in identifying serrated tussock and take prompt action to remove or kill it when it is found.

**For further information:** Councils Vegetation Officers Ph: (02) 6499 2222

**Other information on this site:** Managing Weeds on the Far South Coast - Serrated tussock ([?link](#))



**Paddock infested with serrated tussock**

Photos: JMiles and M Campbell



**Mature seeds on the slender stalks**

**Helpful websites** [www.serratedtussock.com.au](http://www.serratedtussock.com.au)  
[www.southeastweeds.org.au](http://www.southeastweeds.org.au)  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds)

*Disclaimer: The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Bega Valley Shire Council and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.*