

# Seen this plant? Serrated tussock

*Nassella trichotoma*



## How does this weed affect us?

Resembling many native grass species like Poa tussock and snowgrass - serrated tussock can easily go unnoticed whilst mature plants produce copious amounts of viable seed (up to 140,000 seeds per plant):

- Well adapted to Australian environments it can dominate pastures and conservation areas.
- Largely unpalatable to all classes of livestock – very low digestibility increases likelihood of livestock malnourishment if forced to consume serrated tussock.
- Creates a monocultured ecosystem reducing biodiversity – can dominate new incursion sites within 3-4 years of first establishment.
- Seeds highly dispersible by wind ( $\geq 10$ km).
- Reduces land productivity/carrying capacity.
- Perennial species with many years of viable seed output potential.
- Chemical treatment options limited – appropriate herbicides also damage native grass species.

**Seen it? Call us:**

**Cootamundra-Gundagai  
Biosecurity Officer:**

1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity  
Helpline:**

1800 680 244

**Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.**

**For control and biosecurity information visit NSW**

**WeedWise: [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/serratedtussock](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/serratedtussock)**

### Where are you likely to find it?

Grows in upright tussocks up to 45cm high and 25cm diameter. Clumps are light green in Spring-Summer when most other grass species have dried off – purple tinge in early Summer when seed heads are present. Found sporadically over NSW – prefers sandy-loam soils with good drainage. This plant has been identified on several properties in the CGRC area.

### What does it look like?

Grows in upright tussocks up to 45cm high and 25cm diameter. Clumps are light green in Spring-Summer when most other grass species have dried off – purple tinge in early Summer when seed heads are present. Plants are most obvious in the environment when seedheads are forming due to movement in the wind and the silvery-sheen of clumps in the sunlight. Cold, frosty conditions will cause the species to become more pale/yellowed but will recover quickly in Spring. Leaves are very narrow and stiff with a distinct serrated feel when run through the fingers. Seedheads are present September-March. Seedheads have multiple branches and weep over the tussock – bracts encasing each seed give the characteristic purple tinge that may catch the eye in sunlight and make the plant more obvious in the landscape. The wispy appearance of stem-seedhead structures aids seed dispersal via wind as they detach from the parent plant. Seeds are small (1.5mm long), hard and a golden-brown when mature. The root system is fibrous and deep (for the size of the plant) and difficult to remove from the ground even on young plants. Visit NSW Weed Wise for further information.

### Regional Recommended Measure\* (for Regional Priority - Eradication)

*Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant. Notify local control authority if found. Your local biosecurity weeds officer can help to identify, advise on control, and how to remove this weed.*



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