

Seen this plant?

Mexican feather grass

Nassella tenuissima



How does this weed affect us?

Each Mexican feather grass plant can produce up to 100 000 seeds per year. Most seeds germinate within two years but they can persist in the soil for at least 7 years.

- Invades native grass/woodlands.
- Potential to invade and dominate pastures.
- Unpalatable to livestock.
- Poor nutritional value – reducing pasture quality.
- Contaminant of hay and grain.
- Seed dispersed by wind, movement of contaminated seed and fodder and by vectors such as humans, machinery and livestock.
- Difficult to control – herbicide options are limited and juvenile plants are often overlooked.

Seen it? Call us:

Cootamundra-Gundagai NSW DPI Biosecurity
Biosecurity Officer: Helpline:
1300 459 689 1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.
For control and biosecurity information visit NSW
WeedWise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Fireweed

Where are you likely to find it?

The greatest risk of Mexican feather grass introduction into an area is the purchase of mislabeled plants from garden nurseries and planting in private gardens for ornamental purposes. Plants were identified in Leeton (Riverina) as a consequence of inadvertent introduction by gardeners. Thus far, all incursions identified in NSW have been controlled or are under an eradication program. The species is largely uninhibited by climate or soil type and is tolerant of drought, heavy grazing and competition from other vegetation – estimated that 65% total land area of NSW is suitable for Mexican feather grass establishment and proliferation.

What does it look like?

Mexican feather grass grows in upright tussocks up to 70 cm tall. The leaves in the centre of the clump are usually the tallest and upright but may droop over at the top. Leaves at the edge of the clump are often shorter and bend away from the plant. Leaves are up to 60cm long and 0.25-0.5mm wide. Leaves are characteristically smooth if rolled between the fingers but coarse if fingers are slid down the length of the leaf. Seedheads are green-purple and produced on a round, smooth spike. Seeds are clustered in a group (15-25cm long) at the end of the spike. Seedheads are difficult to remove from the plant. The seeds (2-3mm long) are held within a reddish-purple structure (glume) up to 6-10mm long. Visit NSW Weed Wise for further information.



**COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI** REGIONAL
COUNCIL

All of NSW* (**Prohibited Matter**)

A person who deals with prohibited matter or a carrier of prohibited matter is guilty of an offence. A person who becomes aware of or suspects the presence of prohibited matter must immediately notify the Department of Primary Industries.



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/Fireweed**