

# Seen this plant? Chilean Needle Grass

*Nassella neesiana*



## How does this weed affect us?

Invasive perennial (tussock forming) grass growing up to 1m high. Tolerant of a range of soil types and capable of invading even undisturbed natural ecosystems. Threat to biodiversity and land productivity:

- Dominates heavily grazed areas with little ground cover.
- Low feed value and digestibility.
- Forms swards when unmanaged replacing native vegetation.
- Creates a monocultured ecosystem reducing biodiversity.
- Seed characteristics damage animal hides and can impact animal health/welfare (penetrates skin).
- Can reduce both wool and carcass quality of livestock exposed to grass seeds.

**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/chileanneedlegrass](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/chileanneedlegrass)**

### Where are you likely to find it?

Chilean needle grass is relatively widespread in the Central tablelands and South-East regions of NSW. Drought resistant and less palatable than desired pasture species the weed will proliferate on marginal soils and replace pre-existing species in both grazed and undisturbed/natural environments. Disturbed soils along roadsides and table drains are also readily colonised by the species.

### What does it look like?

Long lived, predominately Summer active perennial grass – forms a tussock up to 1m high when mature. Leaves are deep to mid-green when actively growing, flat (1-5mm wide) with a coarse texture. Seed heads have pink-purple hue when in the development stage, maturing to pale brown. Seeds are sharp at the end joining the plant stem with awns (6-9cm long) that twist when dry (facilitates inward movement when attached to wool/animal hair). Seeds also produced in the nodes of flowering stems (shorter awn sections) and accounts for up to 25% of plant seed output.

### Prohibition on certain dealings

*Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.*



### 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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