



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Serrated Tussock

Weed Management Guidelines

hume.vic.gov.au





HUME CITY COUNCIL WEEDS of Hume

Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma*



Method of reproduction and dispersal

Serrated Tussock is largely self-pollinating and relies on the wind to disperse its seeds, allowing it to create colonies well away from the parent plants often kilometres away.

Other ways it can spread include contaminated stockfeed, poor vehicle or machinery hygiene and on the feet or fur of animals

Quick facts

- Has a long-lived seed that can germinate up to 15 years after dropping.
- Often pops up after disturbance situations like drainage or fence construction because of contaminated equipment.
- Causes “seed storms” which have been known to block the doorway to a house or engulf a farm shed following a period of strong winds.
- Declared Noxious weed and is a “WONS” weed (Weed of National Significance) this largely because of its ability to kill some grazing animals and its high level of invasiveness and threat to agriculture.

Identification

Serrated Tussock is a member of the *Nassella* genus of grasses and as with most grasses can be difficult to identify. The name gives you an idea about how to identify it, the leaves are quite fine and have “serrated” edges that when you run your fingers down the leaf blades tend to grab your fingers. As the name also suggests it is a Tussock which means it presents in the form of a single clumping plant that is half spherical in form, growing up to around 800mm in diameter.

Correct identification is important, there are native grasses that are similar in appearance such as Common Tussock-grass (*Poa labillarderei*) and Red-anther Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma pallidum*). Council can assist landowners with identification.

Leaves

When Serrated Tussock is in an active growth period the leaves are typically a straw-green colour. They are tightly rolled so they appear to be somewhat like a strand of hair.

When seeding has finished and the soil starts to dry out over Summer, they can take on a more golden appearance as some outer leaves may die off particularly in dryer Summers.

Serrated tussock has a distinctive ligule which is rounded, white, membranous and hairless. It grows 0.5 to 1mm long and protrudes vertically at the junction of the leaf blade and the leaf sheath and is continuous with sheath margins.

Flowers

Serrated Tussock produces a very fine open seed head that appears like a mist from a distance. The seed heads are often larger than the plant itself and can flop over when the seeds are approaching maturity.

It has a many branched fine stem that contains several small seeds. Because these the stems and seeds are so light the travel readily on the wind and can form dense piles against fences and other infrastructure.

Seeds

The seeds are very small and are enclosed in two reddish-brown or purple bracts (glumes) which are 6 to 10mm long and which taper to a point. The seeds are 2-3mm in length for the seed itself and 20-35mm for the awn (or tail) which is attached off-centre.

Roots

Being a perennial tussock it has a fibrous and deep root system, usually at least as deep as the height of the grass or deeper for long established Tussocks.

HumeLink

Multilingual telephone
information service

Enquiries 9205 2200

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| للمعلومات باللغة العربية | 9679 9815 |
| معلومات باللغة البوسانية | 9679 9809 |
| Za informacije na bosanskom | 9679 9816 |
| Za informacije na hrvatskom | 9679 9817 |
| Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά | 9679 9818 |
| Per avere informazioni in italiano | 9679 9819 |
| За информације на српском | 9679 9820 |
| Para información en español | 9679 9821 |
| Türkçe bilgi için | 9679 9822 |
| Muốn biết thông tin tiếng Việt | 9679 9823 |
| For other languages... | 9679 9824 |

Connect with us



Hume City Council

1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows
PO Box 119, Dallas, Victoria 3047



Customer Service Centres

Scan QR code to find locations and hours
or visit hume.vic.gov.au/contactus



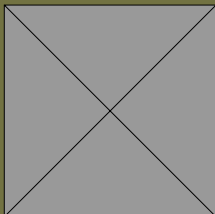
9205 2200



ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au



hume.vic.gov.au/weeds



Follow us on:



HumeCityCouncil

