

## Control and Management

As with most invasive species, the early detection and management is crucial in the control of serrated tussock.

Serrated tussock will become increasingly difficult and costly to control once infestations become established in pastures or wooded grasslands. Maintaining healthy pastures and eliminating individual plants as they appear is the best long-term defence is controlling Serrated tussock.

The key steps to controlling Serrated tussock are:

- **Learn** to identify Serrated tussock, or seek assistance in identification
- Seek assistance to **Plan** control methods
- **Implement** the control methods as planned and monitor for regeneration.



*Image: Serrated tussock in flower*

## Herbicide Options

### **Glyphosate 360 g/L with Flupropanate 745 g/L** (Various products)

Rate: 150 mL glyphosate plus 20 mL flupropanate per 10 L of water **Spot spray** application.

Comments: Apply September to May.

### **Flupropanate 745 g/L** (Various products)

Rate: 1.5 - 2.0 L per Ha **Boom** application.

Comments: Apply June to August.

Whenever using herbicides ALWAYS CHECK THE LABEL for applicable withholding periods.

## Acknowledgements

Much of this information was sourced from NSW Weedwise (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds>)

yass valley council  
the country the people



Serrated Tussock

*Nasella trichotoma*



*Image: Serrated tussock infested pasture*

### Why is Serrated tussock a weed?

Serrated tussock is a wide-spread, serious weed of pasture with significant impacts on carrying capacity and will contaminate hay and grain. The seeds of serrated tussock also contribute to vegetable fault in wool.

Its presence also greatly affects land value from the impact on productivity and control costs.

Serrated tussock has extremely low nutritional value. It is not palatable to stock, with high fibre and low protein, forming undigestible balls in the animals stomach. Animals grazing on it become malnourished and lose condition.

Serrated tussock can completely dominate an area in a little as 4 - 7 years, forming a thick monoculture and destroying local biodiversity in native grasslands and grassy woodlands.

### What does it look like?

Serrated tussock grows in dense upright tussocks, up to 45 cm tall and 25 cm wide.

In spring the clumps of leaves are light green with a whitish base, similar in appearance to shallots, and brown tips to the leaves.

In late spring and early summer the plants develop a purple tinge when the plant is flowering and seed heads emerge. Flowering grass stems can grow up to 95 cm long and droop over to touch the ground on maturity.



*Image: Serrated tussock with frost bleached tips*

Serrated tussock plants remain green in summer when other grasses have turned brown or been grazed down, aiding in identification.

After frost the plants become more yellowish with white bleached tips protecting the green centre.

Mature plants can appear golden yellow as the seed stems die off and become husk-like.

### How does it spread

Serrate tussock is a prolific seeder, producing up to 140,000 seeds per plant. Heavily infested areas can produce up to 2 tonnes of seed per hectare.

Wind and water are the main mechanism for the weed spreading. Seeds can travel 10 kms or more in windy conditions and move more than 60kms downstream in river flows.

Seeds are easily spread through feed, animals and machinery movements. They readily stick to tyres, hair, fleece and clothing.

The seeds are very hard and remain viable after passing through an animal's gut. They have also been known to remain viable after more than 15 years in the soil.

Failing to remove all the soil from chipped out plants can roots to survive and re-establish.



*Image: Serrated tussock*