

Serrated tussock

Nassella trichotoma (serrated tussock)

- Perennial grass that grows to about 50cm
- The seed head is distinctive (best way to identify from native grass), multiple branches with a single seed, seeds have purple tinge when mature.
- Leaves roll between fingers
- Leaf bases always whitish in colour
- Junction of leaf stem is short and hairless ligule.



Serrated tussock seed head on left

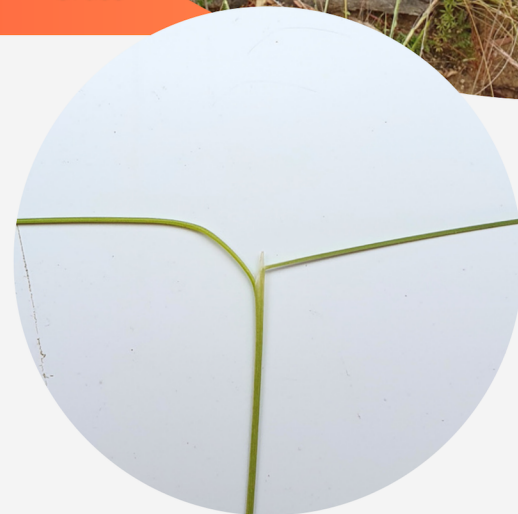


Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

Grass

METHODS OF CONTROL

- Preventing the invasion of serrated tussock is the cheapest and most effective means of control. Establish and maintain healthy, vigorous pastures and native vegetation as these are less prone to invasion than bare patches. Learn how to identify serrated tussock, regularly check for it and act immediately to remove it.
- Individual serrated tussock plants or small infestations can be chipped out with a mattock. If you choose to physically remove plants, ensure that they are placed inside two sealed bags and disposed of in general waste.
- **Do not dispose of serrated tussock via green waste.**
- Depending on the time of year and situation, chemical control of serrated tussock can be achieved by spot spraying with **glyphosate** or **flupropanate**. Organic herbicides such as **nonanoic acid** can also be effective.



Hairless ligule

IMPACTS

Serrated tussock is a highly invasive weed and many of Kingborough's environments are vulnerable to the establishment and spread of the weed. If this occurs, our highly valued agricultural, tourism and environmental assets will be under threat. Livestock are unable to graze on the tussock, which impacts on the economic viability of farms. The species is known to dominate pastures and native grasslands in as little as a few years. This means it can have detrimental impacts on native ecosystems by threatening plant species and reducing biodiversity and habitat for native animals. Dense infestations pose a serious fire hazard with recorded burn intensities of up to 7 times greater than native grass. Serrated tussock infestations also affect land values.

