

# Griffith City Council – Noxious Weed – Management Plan



## Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

Weed of National Significance



Class 3  
Regionally  
Controlled Weed



This plan is published in accordance with Order 30 (*made under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993*) and outlines requirements to control class (3) weeds by private occupiers of land in the Griffith City Council area.

### Plan period:

This plan commences on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Council reserves the right to review, revoke, vary or amend this plan at any time by publication of a revised control plan.

### Obligations of landholders (Section 12, Noxious Weeds Act 1993).

#### Private occupiers of land must control noxious weeds on land.

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

**Note:** If an occupier fails to comply with obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18.

#### Prescribed Control Measures as per Weed Control Order no. 30 made under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993

Regionally Controlled Weed – **“The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed & destroyed and the plant must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed”.**

- The weed must be prevented from growing within 20 metres of a property boundary or watercourse.

Treat all weeds prior to seed set by:

- Application of a registered herbicide as per label.
- Or by physical or mechanical removal.

#### Individual Management Plans

can be drawn up in consultation with landholders on request.

**Important:** Always read herbicide label prior to use. **Mixing rates should be adhered to**, applying extra chemical does not enhance the chemicals' ability to control weeds, but could contribute to "herbicide resistance".

Further assistance and information can be obtained by contacting G.C.C. on (02) 6962 3933.

### Correspondence contact

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### Plan Authorisation

Signed:

Position: *General Manager*

Date Authorised: *28/1/2015*

## Serrated tussock – *Nassella trichotoma*

Serrated tussock is a Class 2 Regionally Prohibited Weed that must be reported to your local council weeds officer or to the NSW Invasive Plants & Animals Enquiry Line 1800 680 244. For more information see [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

**Non-chemical options:** The establishment of perennial pasture together with good grazing management will assist control.

Grub out single plants.

Chemical and Concentration	Rate	Comments
Flupropanate 745 g/L Tussock®	1.5–2.0 L/ha	Boom and aerial application. June to August inclusive. Four-month withholding period for blanket application.
Flupropanate 745 g/L Tussock®	100–200 mL per 100 L of water	Spot spray, from September to May. Four-month withholding period for blanket application.
Glyphosate 360 g/L Roundup®	0.7–1.3 L to 100 L of water	Spot spray application.
Glyphosate 360 g/L Roundup®	4.0–6.0 L/ha	Boom spray. Apply to actively growing, stress-free plants.
Glyphosate 360 g/L Roundup®	0.75–1.25 L/ha	Spray topping application. Apply to actively growing, stress-free plants.
<b>PER9792</b>	Glyphosate 360 g/L Roundup®	1 L per 2 L of water Wick wiping application.

**Plant Description:** Serrated tussock is a perennial, drought resistant, highly invasive tussock forming grass which is a serious weed in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It is highly adapted to a range of environments, seeds prolifically and is difficult and expensive to control. Large volumes of seed are spread long distances by wind; allowing new populations to establish over large areas.

**Impact:** the plant can infest agricultural land ranging from highly arable and fertile areas through to steep and non-arable areas with low fertility. It can colonise both native and introduced pastures, and its spread is most rapid in degraded or disturbed pastures.

**Plant ID:** Accurate identification of grasses is essential before control. Mature tussocks can vary in size depending on soil fertility, and can grow to 45 cm in height and have a diameter at the base of 25 cm. The plant changes colour throughout the year. It is most recognisable when in full flower in late spring/summer when it has a distinct purple tinge. After flowering when seed heads are fully developed are golden brown above a light green tussock base.

**Leaves:** are tightly rolled, narrow, stiff and upright. They have small serrations that can be felt when the leaf is drawn between the fingers. The (*ligule*) is the key to identification. To find it, trace down the leaf to the junction with the leaf sheath (*i.e. the junction with the next leaf*). Slowly separate and bend the leaf back, and a small, white hairless flap 1 mm long will protrude vertically. The leaf bases of serrated tussock are whitish and ‘shallot like’.

**Flowering:** Serrated tussock generally flowers during mid to late spring and the seeds develop in early to late summer. The time of flowering is variable from year to year, depending of seasonal conditions.

**Seed Heads:** is a panicle (*multi-branched seed head*) up to 35 cm long with a weeping appearance when in full flower. At each junction there are two or three branches with a single seed on each branch, or alternatively another set of small branches with single heads.

Seeds are hard and small (*1.5 mm long*), with a ring of white hairs at one end and a twisted awn 25 mm long at the other. The awn is attached off-centre to the seed. At flowering the seed is encased in reddish-brown or purple bracts.



**Germination:** most germination of seeds will occur in autumn in response to rain. However, it is possible for seeds to germinate at other times of the year. Most seeds will germinate within 3 years; very small quantities have been reported to remain viable for significantly longer periods (*up to 20 years under laboratory conditions*).

Seedlings are weak competitors and they are unable to emerge from soil depths greater than 1.8 cm. Plant growth is relatively slow compared with desirable pasture species. Seedlings are easily smothered by other more desirable pasture. Established pastures do not allow serrated tussock seedlings to establish during their first summer.

**Control:** serrated tussock plants as soon as they appear and before they seed. Maintain vigorous, competitive pastures through fertiliser use and sound grazing management will help to prevent infestations.



**Images:** Serrated Tussock seeds germination in the autumn, however germination can take place at any time of the year - under the right conditions.



**Images above/below left:** Serrated Tussock when established will quickly out-compete existing pasture, especially if pasture is degraded by drought or over-grazing.

**Note:** Serrated Tussock can be confused with other tussock forming grasses making it difficult to positively identify.

Introduced grass species constitute a major threat to agriculture; if these grasses are allowed to establish themselves on a property they will quickly out-compete more desirable pasture plants.

If in doubt about the identification of a grass contact council weeds officers to get the grass positively identified.

Samples can be sent to the Botanical Gardens for positive identification. This can be done through council noxious weed department.

