

# North West Regional Best Practice Guide for: Chilean Needle Grass



**Botanical name:** Nassella neesiana

**Common names:** Chilean Needle Grass

Chilean needle grass: is closely related to serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). Chilean needle grass affects both sown pasture and native grasslands of south-eastern Australia. It is relatively unpalatable and reduces farm productivity by displacing more desirable pasture species. Heavy infestations can decrease productivity by as much as 50% during summer. It also causes injury to stock and downgrades wool, skins and hides with its long sharp seeds.

## Your responsibilities

Under the the General Biosecurity Duty - Biosecurity Act 2015, a General Biosecurity Duty applies to all dealings (as defined in the Act) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

## The penalties

The maximum penalties for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are:

- In the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- In the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

## Recommendations and requirements

Under the Regional Recommended Measure, an exclusion zone is established for all lands in the region, except the core infestation area comprising Tamworth Regional Council.

The following is needed to demonstrate compliance with the Act:

- Whole of region: The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment
- Within Exclusion Zone: Land managers should prevent spread from their land, land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land
- Within Core Infestation: Land managers should reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets.

Mandatory measure - A person must not import into the State or sell.

An exclusion zone exists within Gunnedah Shire. Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements, on the Exclusion Zone within the Shire:

1. The land is kept free of the plant, and
2. Land managers will mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.

# North West Regional Best Practice Guide for: **Chilean Needle Grass**

## Control Calendar



### Growth cycles

Germination: March to end of May; September to the end of November

Seed heads emerge: November to January

Seed shed: February

### Integrated control techniques and alternatives

High density-short duration strategic grazing management system: mid-March through to the following end of February

Pasture sowing/establishment/management: March to mid-July; mid-October to February

Heavy grazing may reduce flowering and potential seed set: September to December

### Registered herbicide application rates:

- PERMIT 9792 Expires 30/11/2020 Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Rate: 1 L per 100 L water Comments: Spot spray
- PERMIT 9792 Expires 30/11/2020 Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Rate: 1 L/ha Comments: Boom spray
- Flupropanate 745 g/L (Tussock®) Rate: 1.5–3.0 L/ha Comments: Boom application.
- Flupropanate 745 g/L with Glyphosate 360 g/L (Various products) Rate: 200 mL flupropanate plus 150 mL glyphosate 360g/L per 100 L of water Comments: Spot spray application. Apply to actively growing plants

#### Critical hints:

- Apply to actively growing plants.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

### Note:

- All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
- All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
- All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.

#### DISCLAIMER:

This document has been prepared by the North West Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

### For further information:

Gunnedah Shire Council Biosecurity Officer - Weeds.  
63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380  
T: (02) 6740 2100  
E: [council@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au)



Local Land  
Services