

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

African feathergrass

Pennisetum macrourum

How do I identify African feathergrass?

Clump forming grass that can grow up to **2 metres** tall

Leaves: Light green on top and dark green underneath

Flowers: Narrow, bristly, white to purple-brown seed heads that may be upright or arching

Roots: Underground creeping stems

Where found: Gardens, pasture, coastal areas, drain and stream edges

What's the problem?

- African feathergrass is generally unpalatable to livestock and therefore reduces available grazing area
- Invades native ecosystems suppressing the growth of low growing species
- It is spread many ways including water, wind, contaminated soil and feed, machinery, animals and people

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have African feathergrass or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is African feathergrass, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

This plant used to be a popular plant in older gardens because of its seed heads, it is now banned from sale

