

# 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

