

# Chilean Needle Grass

*Nassella neesiana*

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

## Why it's a problem:

Chilean needle grass spreads easily and causes destruction in many ways.

- Its sharp needle like tip can penetrate the skin and muscle of stock.
- It contaminates feed and wool, and reduces productive pasture grasses.
- Generally unpalatable to livestock and therefore reduces available grazing area.
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- Spreads through water, wind, machinery, animals and contaminated soil and feed.

## Appearance:

- A clumpy grass that grows up to one metre tall.
- Yellow to green leaves that grow 2–8 mm wide and are harsh to the touch.
- Large tufts shine in the light. Purple drooping seed heads that are bullet shaped and extremely sharp.

## Location:

Farm land, grasslands, forest margins and wasteland. Currently it infests approximately 3,700 hectares of land in New Zealand, but has the potential to affect up to 15 million hectares nationwide.

## Get more information:

- [Weedbusters](#) provides descriptions and images to help with pest identification.
- [Agpest](#) is an identification tool for pests, biology, impact and management for farmers and agricultural professionals.
- [iNaturalist](#) is a sharing tool that contributes to biodiversity science for avid nature observers.
- Manaaki Whenua – [Landcare Research](#) provides information on weeds and biocontrol
- [Ministry for Primary Industries](#) (MPI) for information on protecting New Zealand from biological risk.
- Practice [biosecurity hygiene](#) to stop the spreading of pests.

