

Nassella Tussock

Nassella trichotoma

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

Why it's a problem:

Nassella tussock spreads easily and causes destruction to the environment and to agriculture.

- It invades native ecosystems and suppresses the growth of low growing species.
- It is generally unpalatable and indigestible to livestock and therefore reduces available grazing area.
- It spreads through water, wind, contaminated soil and feed, machinery, animals and people.
- It is difficult to recognise and is costly to control and eradicate.

Appearance:

- A clumpy grass that grows up to one metre tall.
- Yellow to green leaves that are wiry and rough to the touch.
- Leaf clump base is hard when pressed.
- Purple small seeds that are carried on slender stalks.
- Tough, deep roots that have a swollen stem just above the ground.

Location:

Gardens, farmland and coastal areas. It will grow in a wide range of habitats, particularly on steep, rugged, dry slopes, stony riverbeds and banks, and terraces.



Get more information:

- [Weedbusters](#) provides descriptions and images to help with pest identification.
- [Aggest](#) 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.

Contact us:

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If you see this plant on your property or need help to identify a plant in the Wellington Region, contact us on **0800 496 734** or email pest.plants@gw.govt.nz.

We help to support landowners with the management of this pest plant found in the Wellington Region.