



Mature serrated tussock in early summer with characteristic weeping purple seed head.

# Be on the **ALERT** for SERRATED TUSSOCK

If you find a grass which looks like this,  
please contact us.



Serrated tussock, in early autumn, remains green when most other grasses yellow off.



Seeding serrated tussock showing the purple haze of early summer seed heads.



The tussock plant shape is similar to many other native grasses.

*Photos supplied by I & I NSW.*

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

# SERRATED TUSSOCK

Identification of serrated tussock can be difficult, especially when the seed head is not present, and it is often confused with a number of native grasses.



## Description

Serrated tussock is a perennial grass that can grow up to 60 cm in height and 25 cm in diameter at the base of the plant. It has a tussock grass form, with thin tightly rolled, hairless leaves that often have a lightly 'serrated' feel.

When in flower, the large purple seed heads droop over the plant giving it up to 75cm diameter.

Plants remain green during summer, when other grasses have usually browned off.

## Key identifying features

- "Tussocky grass to 60 cm tall
- Thin, tightly rolled, hairless leaves with very fine serrations
- White hairless ligule
- White swollen leaf bases
- Purple tinge to flower heads, later turning golden as the seeds ripen
- Weeping flower heads that break off at maturity
- Difficult to pull from the ground, even when small

## When not in seed:

- Leaves roll smoothly like a needle when rolled between the index finger and thumb. Most native grasses will feel like they have flat edges.

## Why we need to be on the **ALERT**

Serrated tussock is a perennial, highly invasive grass. It is very competitive with other native grass species, and can readily colonise degraded, low nutrient soils with poor rainfall. Each year each plant produces tens-of-thousands of seeds which are small enough to be carried by the wind, sometimes up to several kilometres away.

It has low nutrient and protein levels and is unpalatable to stock.

If left uncontrolled, within 12 years there may be 100% saturation of tussock, taking over all other grasses. This grass poses an extremely high risk to the grazing industry and natural environment.

[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock)



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