

Serrated Tussock National Priority Action Framework 2008/10

VISION : The impact of serrated tussock is reduced and its spread and establishment across Australia is prevented.

	Early Detection & Reducing Spread	Managing the Impact	Best Practice Management	Cross Program Actions
Priority  1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop and support programs to maintain containment lines to prevent further spread, decrease extent of outlying populations and reduce impact. (2.2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mapping current serrated tussock distribution at consistent national scale. (2.2.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Best practice management information is developed, updated and available. (2.1.1; 2.1.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support and facilitate partnerships and engagement with NRM organisations, government, local council, community groups to strategically manage serrated tussock. (2.3.1)
 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote and raise awareness of serrated tussock and its impact. * Increase recognition and identification of serrated tussock. (2.3.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identify containment lines, outlying populations and core infestation zones with appropriate management objectives. (2.2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the development and promotion of integrated weed strategies for serrated tussock. (2.1.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support regional and local groups to prepare and implement strategic management plans. (2.3.2)
 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide extensions materials for dissemination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support and facilitate coordination of land managers and activities to best achieve serrated tussock management objectives in their region and properties. (2.2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Incorporate best practice information, where possible, into education and training programs – professional, adult education, school, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Facilitate and maintain the National Management Group. * Support dedicated serrated tussock groups. (2.3.4) * Promote communication and information exchange.

Priorities are based on the National Strategy. Numbers correspond to actions in the National Strategy.

Further information on these priorities is provided on following pages.

Cross Program Actions includes research, education, awareness, operation of management groups, finding other coordinators and other actions that are relevant to all programs.

Detailed information regarding the ***Serrated Tussock* National Priority Action Framework**

Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is listed as one of Australia's 20 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), due to its highly invasiveness nature, dispersal of seed over long distances and unpalatability for grazing animals. It is a potential threat to over 30 million hectares, in south-east Australia, detrimentally affecting the value of Australia's native and productive grasslands. Climate change predictions of drier conditions for south-east Australia will support the further distribution of serrated tussock and existing populations becoming denser without treatment.

The priority action framework is divided into 4 sections:

1. Early Detection and Reducing Spread
2. Managing the Impact
3. Best Practice Management
4. Cross Program Actions

This document provides further detail regarding each action contained in the framework. Priorities were developed by the National Serrated Tussock Management Group and are based on the National Strategy. Numbers in brackets correspond to actions in the National Strategy.

Early Detection and Reducing Spread

Priority 1 – Develop and support programs to maintain containment lines to prevent further spread, decrease extent of outlying populations and reduce impact. (2.2.1)

(Refer to associated serrated tussock map for zoning.) Activities and projects associated with maintaining containment lines, decreasing outlying populations and reducing impact are actively supported and facilitated. Key containment areas include the western boundary in NSW, the sthn & nthn borders in New England (NSW), the southern border in East Gippsland (Vic), the border around peri-urban Melbourne and neighbouring regions (Vic), and containing all infestations in Tasmania. Important outlying populations include the north-west in NSW, populations to the west of the NSW western containment line, occurrences in the north-west of Vic, outliers in East Gippsland and outliers in Tasmania. Strategic planning and collaborative activities to reduce impact in core infestations.

Priority 2 – Promote and raise awareness of serrated tussock and its impact. Increase recognition and identification of serrated tussock. (2.3.3)

Activities which increase community capacity to recognise and identify serrated tussock, in all infested areas. Targeted projects for regions in containment areas or with isolated populations to enhance awareness and identification skills. Continue promotion and raising awareness of issues, both single-issue and building on general good farm and grazing management. Promote impact on biodiversity values and need for management across all land tenures.

Priority 3 – Provide extension materials for dissemination.

Up-to-date information is readily available and accessible. Provide regionally appropriate information to communities, which utilises existing materials and makes linkages to integrated management, NRM and good grazing management.

Managing the Impact

Priority 1 – Mapping current serrated tussock distribution at consistent national scale to provide base-line information. (2.2.3)

Use existing data provided by all States for a nationally consistent map – to inform strategic management of areas, assist regional bodies in setting strategic objectives and for use as an educational and information resource. Support regional mapping projects to

up-date and refine this information, and provide in form accessible to all stakeholders. Information to be updated as appropriate.

Priority 2 – Identify containment lines, outlying populations and core infestation zones with appropriate management objectives. (2.2.1)

(Refer to accompanying map). Projects and activities which support the identification and maintenance of these management zones.

Priority 3 – Support and facilitate coordination of land managers and activities to best achieve serrated tussock management objectives in their region and properties. (2.2.1)

Priority is for strategic management of serrated tussock at a regional, catchment or community level in a partnership process which includes all relevant land managers, land owners, government, NRM professionals and other stakeholders.

Best Practice Management

Priority 1 – Best practice management information is developed, updated and available. (2.1.1; 2.1.2)

Research and field trials of control methods for serrated tussock are supported. Findings of research and anecdotal control methods to be promoted, and incorporated into extension materials where appropriate. Information on best practice management is available, and updated.

Priority 2 – Support the development and promotion of integrated weed strategies for serrated tussock. (2.1.3)

Management of serrated tussock in the context of integrated weed management principles – such as planning for long-term control, reducing dependence on herbicides, promoting vegetation and good grazing practices, using physical barriers and good farm planning to reduce spread, good farm and machinery hygiene.

Priority 3 – Incorporate best practice information, where possible, into education and training programs – professional, adult education, school, etc.

Support of educational opportunities to incorporate information on serrated tussock, its management and need for long-term integrated weed approaches.

Cross Program Actions

Priority 1 – Support and facilitate partnerships and engagement with NRM organisations, government, local council, community groups to strategically manage serrated tussock. (2.3.1)

Projects and activities with emphasis on partnership/s with all land managers and stakeholders in a region, catchment or other area, and with emphasis on strategic long-term management, which may include change of land tenure and landscape management.

Priority 2 – Support regional and local groups to prepare and implement strategic serrated tussock management plans. (2.3.2)

Priority is for projects and works where regional and local groups are working together to implement serrated tussock control and management, particularly within an integrated weed management context.

Priority 3 – Facilitate and maintain the National Management Group. Support dedicated serrated tussock groups. (2.3.4) Promote communication and information exchange.