

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

Weed Control Management Plan: Chilean Needle Grass

Botanical Name: *Nassella neesiana*

Common Names: Chilean Needle Grass

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective – ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of Region)

This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.

General Biosecurity Duty – *Biosecurity Act 2015*

A **general biosecurity duty** applies to all dealings (as defined) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- Land managers should prevent spread from their land, where feasible.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.
- **Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017)**

A person must not import into the state or sell.

Inverell Shire Council Local Control Requirements

Minimise the risk of introduction. If currently affected, reduce the infestation, and reduce the potential for the spread to neighbouring land.

Boundaries and waterways must be kept free of the plant to prevent spread from the property. All reasonable measures are to be taken to ensure vehicles, machinery and livestock moved off property are free of plant.



Chilean Needle Grass is closely related to serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). Chilean Needle Grass affects both sown pasture and native grasslands of south eastern Australia. It is relatively unpalatable and reduces farm productivity by displacing more desirable pasture species. Heavy infestations can decrease productivity by as much as 50% during summer. It also causes injury to stock and downgrades wool, skins and hides with its long, sharp seeds.

Research on the Northern Tablelands of NSW by the University of New England has shown that the main reason for the success of Chilean Needle Grass is its large, long-lived reserve of viable seed in the soil seed bank. This seed bank can persist for many years even if further seed input is prevented. It is a prolific seeder, with the potential to produce more than 20,000 seeds per square metre in a good season. It also has hidden seeds under the leaf sheaths at each of the nodes on the flowering stems that mature even if the seed head has been removed.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The maximum penalty is:

- in the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- in the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area.

For Further Information:

Inverell Shire Council

144 Otho Street

Inverell NSW 2360

PH: (02) 6728 8200 <http://inverell.nsw.gov.au/>

or

NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

or

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:

<https://northerntablelands.lis.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

Registered herbicide application rates for: Chilean Needle Grass

Botanical Name: *Nassella neesiana*

Common Names: Chilean Needle Grass

Chilean Needle Grass Control Calendar

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HERBICIDE OPTIMAL								HERBICIDE OPTIMAL			

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

Flupropanate 745g/L at 1.5 – 3.0L per ha. (Boom application. Apply to actively growing plants from Spring to Autumn).

Flupropanate 745g/L at 200ml flupropanate plus 150ml glyphosate 360g/L per 100L of water. (Spot spray application. Apply to actively growing plants from Spring to Autumn).

Glyphosate 360g/L (Roundup®) (off label permit 9792) at 1L per 100L water (spot spray).

Glyphosate 360g/L (Roundup®) (off label permit 9792) at 1L/ha (boom spray).

Critical Comments:

- Consult your weeds officer for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and MSDS of respective herbicides.

NOTE:

- (a) All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
- (b) All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
- (c) All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- (d) Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.

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