

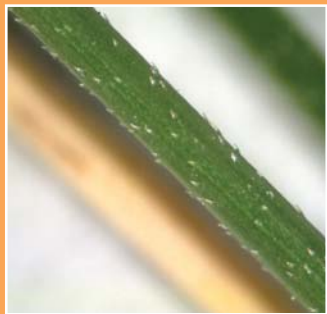
Mexican feather grass

Nassella tenuissima

How to identify Mexican feather grass



Mexican feather grass is a densely tufted, perennial tussock that grows to about 70cm high. It is very similar in appearance to serrated tussock.



Leaves are needle-like and roll smoothly between the fingers. They have serrations which can be felt when sliding fingers down the length of the leaf blade.



Mature plants form seed on a long flower spike. Seeds have a small pointed tip and a long bent tail which resemble a large feather when clumped together at the end of the flower spike

What should you do if you find a Mexican feather grass plant?

Please do not attempt to control or dispose of this weed yourself. If you think you have purchased or seen a Mexican feather grass plant, please contact the Department of Primary Industries by telephoning 136 186.



If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY: 1800 122 969, or email: customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

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DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



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Nassella tenuissima (Trin.) Barkworth.

Mexican feather grass is declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)* as a State prohibited weed. Plants of this species were inadvertently supplied to a number of retail chain stores throughout Victoria. Investigations by the Department of Primary Industries have revealed that as many as 4000 Mexican feather grass plants may have been supplied to stores from January to May 2008.

What are State prohibited weeds?

State prohibited weeds either do not occur in Victoria, or are present and can reasonably be expected to be eradicated. State prohibited weeds are the highest category of noxious weeds under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)*. The Department of Primary Industries is responsible for the eradication of State prohibited weeds. The Victorian Government is committed to preventing the introduction of high-risk weeds into Victoria, to protect our environment and economy.

Why is it so dangerous?

Mexican feather grass is a potentially serious new weed to Australia. It is hardy, drought tolerant, unpalatable to stock and difficult to control. The species is closely related to serrated tussock, widely regarded as the worst pasture weed in Australia. Serrated tussock is estimated to cost Australia more than \$50 million a year in lost productivity and weed control costs. Mexican feather grass has the potential to invade up to 14 million hectares in Australia, a far greater area than serrated tussock.



Suspected Mexican feather grass plants could have been sold under any of the following names: *Stipa capillata*, *Stipa lessingiana*, *Stipa capriccio* or *Stipa Regal Sensations*.