

# Pest alert

Declared Class 1

Mexican feather grass could be in your area.

Call Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** if you see this pest:

- It invades native grasslands and pastures.
- It is a densely tufted perennial tussock grass.
- Leaves are tightly rolled, with small serrations.
- The greenish flower head becomes pale as seeds form.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's agricultural industries and natural environment.



## Mexican feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)

### Description

Mexican feather grass is a densely tufted perennial tussock grass growing to about 70 cm high and is similar to serrated tussock. Seed heads are 15–25 cm long and the lower glume is 9–10 mm long. Leaves are thread-like, 0.25–0.5 mm in diameter and about 60 cm long. Stems are up to 70 cm high.

Mexican feather grass is closely related to several other exotic grasses, including serrated tussock (*N. trichotoma*) and Chilean needle grass (*N. neesiana*), both of which are Weeds of National Significance. Serrated tussock costs New South Wales agriculture more than \$40 million annually and is causing severe environmental damage to native grasslands.

### Declaration details

Mexican feather grass is a Class 1 declared plant under Queensland legislation.

Class 1 pests established in Queensland are subject to eradication from the state. Landowners must take reasonable steps to keep land free of Class 1 pests. It is a serious offence to introduce, keep or supply a Class 1 pest without a permit issued by Biosecurity Queensland. Penalties of up to \$80 000 apply.

### What should I do?

If you have seen this plant, please contact your local government office or Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**.

Do not attempt to remove suspect plants.

### Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call **13 25 23** or visit our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)).

