



Government
of South Australia

Declared Plant Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

Serrated tussock is an unpalatable perennial grass that superficially resembles native *Austrostipa* species and invades unsown pastures or native vegetation with a grassy understorey. It is not yet naturalised in South Australia.

Management Plan for Serrated Tussock

Outcomes

- Pasture and native vegetation protected from degradation by unpalatable invasive grasses.

Objectives

- Prevent the establishment of serrated tussock in South Australia.

Best Practice Implementation

- Surveillance for infestations as part of routine inspection by regional landscape boards, particularly in high risk regions, and Green Adelaide.
- Any infestations found to be delimited, contained and destroyed to achieve eradication.
- Movement of machinery or fodder from an infested property to be monitored to contain any dispersal.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to raise landowners' awareness of serrated tussock.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

serrated tussock policy

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Eyre Peninsula	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Green Adelaide	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Hills and Fleurieu	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Kangaroo Island	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Limestone Coast	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Murraylands and Riverland	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
Northern and Yorke	Prevent entry, destroy if detected
South Australian Arid Lands	Prevent entry, destroy if detected

Declaration

To implement this policy, serrated tussock is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited. Notification of infestations is necessary to ensure these are destroyed. Land owners are required to destroy any serrated tussock plants growing on their land. Landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to destroy plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Serrated tussock is declared in category 1 under the Act, for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, road transport or sale can only be issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water or their delegate pursuant to section 197.

Under the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Regulation 27 specifies the conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 186 and may transport wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying serrated tussock on public roads, or bring them into the State. Regulation 28 specifies conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 188(2) and may sell wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying serrated tussock. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to serrated tussock throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region								
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
190 Requiring notification of presence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, in the event of serrated tussock becoming established as a weed in South Australia, or in the event of any change in its status as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Serrated tussock spreads by seeds, which are produced abundantly in stalked panicles and become attached to animals or are blown by the wind. They could also be dispersed in contaminated produce, notably hay, or on vehicles and clothing.

Impacts

Serrated tussock forms dense infestations in pasture, native grasslands and woodlands where it can exclude desirable species. It has low feed value to stock, and is not palatable so tends to increase under high grazing pressure.

Potential distribution

Climate matching suggests that a large part of the southern agricultural regions of South Australia is suitable habitat for serrated tussock, which is now widespread across similar habitats in western Victoria. It would grow in grasslands, perennial pastures and grassy woodlands.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Permits exist for the use of several herbicides for the destruction of serrated tussock incursions. Herbicide control would be labour intensive, as these are non-selective controls and it would be necessary to repeat the treatment over several years and search for remaining plants. If the weed became established, control would depend on management of infested properties to prevent spread and replace with desirable vegetation over a long period. Herbicide resistance occurs in infestations in New South Wales due to over-reliance on a narrow range of chemicals.

Persistence

Eradication of an incursion would be slowed by the long life of seeds in the soil and the difficulty of detecting all serrated tussock plants among other grasses.

Current distribution

Serrated tussock does not occur wild in South Australia, but is naturalised in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Grazing - southern	very high 202	very high 1	eradicate
Native vegetation	low 38	very high 1	monitor

Considerations

Serrated tussock is one of the Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions. In line with the national strategy on serrated tussock, sale of the plant is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions. There is no demand for this plant except where it has been grown in mistake for a native grass, and prohibiting its sale it does not inconvenience the nursery trade.

Risk assessment indicates eradication as the management action; this is best implemented by preventing its entry to South Australia or its establishment here. Serrated tussock is found in western Victoria, raising the risk of movement of its seeds across the border on trains or road vehicles. Although it is not commercially grown, it has been found and destroyed in gardens at Salisbury, Blewitt Springs and Naracoorte Caves where it had been planted as an ornamental grass. Because of its very high weed risk, apparent absence from the State and very high feasibility of control, serrated tussock is regarded as a State Alert Weed and a high priority surveillance target to increase the likelihood of early detection.

Synonymy

Nassella trichotoma (Nees) Hack. ex Arechav., Anales Mus. Nac. Montevideo 1: 336 (1896).

Basionym: *Stipa trichotoma* Nees, Fl. Bras. Enum. Pl. 2: 375. (1829)

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Agrostis trichotoma Nees ex Trin., Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg, Sér.6, Sci. Math., Seconde Pt. Sci. Nat. 4: 338 (1841).

Caryochloa trichotoma (Nees) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 765. (1891)

Oryzopsis trichotoma (Nees) Druce, Rep. Bot. Exch. Cl. Brit. Isles 1909, 2:420 (1910).

Urachne trichotoma (Nees) Trin., Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg, Sér.6, Sci. Math., Seconde Pt. Sci. Nat. 3: 124 (1835)

Taxonomic synonym:

Piptatherum macrantherum Nees ex Steud., Index Kew. 2(3): 543 (1894)

References

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand Australia & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers (2000) 'Weeds of National Significance Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) Strategic Plan.' (National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee: Launceston).

Osmond, R., Verbeek, M., McLaren, D.A., Michelmore, M., Wicks, B., Grech, C.J. & Fullerton, P. (2008) 'Serrated Tussock National Best Practice Management Manual'. Victorian DPI: Melbourne).

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Date: 28 March 2021