

HERBS & GRASSES

Nassella trichotoma

Serrated Tussock



Photo: Viridans Images

Status: “Regionally Prohibited Weed”

Origin: South America

Description: Tussock-forming, fine-leaved grass. Plant remains green in autumn/winter when many native tussock grasses have dried off.

Fruits/Seeds: Flower heads droop to the ground in summer when seeds are ripe.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by wind for many kilometres, by water, animals, machinery, in hay, dumped garden waste and in contaminated soil.

Invades: Coastal vegetation, grassland, woodland, forest, sides of waterways, pastures, roadsides.



HERBS & GRASSES

Pennisetum clandestinum Kikuyu Grass



Origin: East Africa

Description: Common grass (planted for lawn and pasture) with creeping stems forming a lush, thick mat. Can become the dominant groundcover, smothering other low plants and climbing into low shrubs.

Fruits/Seeds: Flower is usually hidden within the plant.

Dispersal: Spreads from underground rhizomes, surface-creeping stolons (stems), and from cut or broken stems. Often spread by grass cutting machinery, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.

Invades: Coastal areas, woodlands, grasslands, sides of waterways, forest, roadsides.



HERBS & GRASSES

Paspalum dilatatum

Paspalum



Origin: South America

Description: Summer growing perennial grass to 1m particularly in moist areas.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces by seed and by rhizomes.

Dispersal: Sticky seed spread by animals, water, vehicles, on clothing and footwear. Rhizomes dispersed in soil and by machinery and during removal.

Invades: Heathlands, grasslands, woodlands, forests, wetlands and riparian areas.



HERBS & GRASSES

Salpichroa organifolia Pampas Lily of the Valley



Status: “Restricted Weed”

Origin: South America

Description: Vigorous scrambling or climbing perennial which can completely smother other vegetation.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces by roots and by seed from a yellow berry. Seeds germinate in spring to early summer.

Dispersal: Seed spread by animals, birds, mud contaminated equipment and clothing. Roots spread by cultivation equipment, road graders and in garden refuse.

Invades: Dry coastal vegetation, heathland and heathy woodland, lowland grassland and grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and riparian vegetation.



HERBS & GRASSES

Senecio elegans

Purple Groundsel



Origin: South Africa

Description: Herb 20-100mm high with daisy-like flowers with purple petals and golden yellow centre.

Fruits/Seeds: Seed produced October to February.

Dispersal: Spread by wind and in contaminated soil.

Invades: Coastal areas.



HERBS & GRASSES

Senecio jacobaea

Ragwort



Status: "Regionally Controlled Weed"

Origin: Europe

Description: Upright herb to 1.5m with dark green, ragged-edged leaves and yellow daisy-like flowers. Plant development changes from an early rosette form, to a cabbage-like form, before sending up an erect leafy flower stem, branching towards the top.



Fruits/Seeds: Can produce 200,000 seeds per plant.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by wind, animals, machinery, in clothing and can remain in the soil for many years. Removing flower heads every year will eventually deplete seed from the soil.

Invades: Pastures, roadsides, grassland, woodland.



Sporobolus africanus

Rat-tail Grass



(Syn. *Sporobolus indicus* — Indian Rat-tail Grass)

Origin: South Africa

Description: Perennial grass to 70cm

Fruits/Seeds: Produces large numbers of seeds all year round if conditions are suitable.

Dispersal: Seed easily spread in contaminated soil, on clothing and machinery, in dumped garden waste.

Invades: A major threat to grassland and grassy woodland communities where it invades degraded areas.



HERBS & GRASSES

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Arum Lily



Origin: South Africa

Description: Height: 0.5 to 1.5m, with numerous large, green, fleshy leaves shooting from base and distinctive white, funnel-shaped false flower containing tiny flowers on a yellow rod. Common garden plant. All parts of the plant are poisonous.

Fruits/Seeds: Green or yellow turning orange berry, 5-10mm containing several seeds.

Dispersal: Seed spread by birds, animals, water, contaminated soil, machinery, in dumped garden waste and by sale from nurseries and markets.

Invades: Coastal areas, pastures, roadsides, gardens, sides of waterways, drainage channels.

