



Media release

The Place To Be From the Department of Primary Industries

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SERRATED TUSSOCK AND FODDER

The risk of weed spread can significantly increase through the movement and importation of fodder from other areas during and after the drier months of the year.

During these periods and especially during drought conditions, hay is often purchased in desperation and the quality can often be overlooked.

Department of Primary Industries officer Andrew Bailey said that “it is important that property owners and managers know where the fodder they are planning to purchase has come from and what weeds may exist in that area”.

“One weed in particular to be aware of when importing new fodder onto your property, is the notorious weed serrated tussock” said Mr Bailey.

If left unattended, serrated tussock can spread across large areas in a short period of time. Due to its invasiveness, serrated tussock can have severe negative impacts on the surrounding environmental, economic and social values.

Some areas within the Corangamite and Port Phillip Catchments have established infestations of serrated tussock. However, there are a number of simple activities that property owners and managers can implement to help prevent the spread of serrated tussock into new or clean areas. These include the following;

- Feed livestock in the same area each time. Feed areas should be easily accessible, so that any weed control work necessary will be easier to manage,
- Regularly monitor the feed area and any adjacent areas for new weeds. Early detection and control can save a lot of money and time.
- If a suspect plant is detected on your property, seek assistance to identify it. This will ensure appropriate control methods are applied for its control.
- Ensure that any machinery moving on and off your property is free of any soil and fodder material that may contain weed seed.
- When purchasing new livestock, ensure they are quarantined or at least 14 days until weed seeds have had the opportunity to pass through their system.

Land owners and land managers have a duty of care to prevent the spread of weeds from their land. For more information contact the Department of Primary industries on 136 186