

Media Release: for Local Government newsletter

VSTWP TACKLES SERRATED TUSSOCK

16th November 2015

Did you know that serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is a weed of national significance that costs the Victorian economy millions of dollars each year? Did you also know that the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) formed in 1995 in response to community concern about serrated tussock and has, over the past two decades, provided information and education services to thousands of landowners both here and interstate?

For those not familiar with serrated tussock, it is a tussock forming grass native to South America that was first recorded in Victoria in 1954. Serrated tussock is highly invasive and quickly becomes established, dominating landscapes, reducing agricultural productivity and decreasing biodiversity in native grasslands. It is estimated that serrated tussock has infested over 130,000 hectares of land in Victoria alone, and once it takes hold, large infestations require ongoing management and can be expensive to treat.

The VSTWP has strived in partnership with all levels of government and their agencies, industry, research institutions, Landcare and the wider community to achieve the objectives of the Victorian Serrated Tussock Strategy. This includes the production of educational materials, provision of incentives to land managers and community groups, investment into pasture and herbicide research, and undertaking a comprehensive education and mapping campaign.

The good news is the VSTWP has a range of information readily available on how to identify serrated tussock, and how best to manage infestations and prevent new infestations from establishing. Our website is full of useful information including videos on identification, landowner case studies, the 'The Tussock Times' newsletter and the latest research into treatments.



Image: Serrated tussock can dominate grasslands and pastures and is very drought tolerant.

For further information, please visit www.serratedtussock.com, or call the VSTWP on (03) 5366 0000