

Media Release: for Local Government Newsletter

SERRATED TUSSOCK SET FOR PROLIFIC SEEDING SEASON

21st October 2015

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) would like to remind landowners and managers across Victoria that the recent rains will result in significant Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) seeding during late spring and early summer this year. Some areas across Victoria have had record winter rainfalls, after a very dry summer, which is the perfect storm for the establishment and spread of the noxious weed Serrated Tussock.

Community Engagement Officer with the VSTWP Ivan Carter said “our extension officers have already observed Serrated Tussock plants with substantial numbers of seeds developing around the Gisborne, Melton, Sunbury and Ballan regions. A mature Serrated Tussock plant can produce thousands of seeds per season, which are wind-blown across the region up to 20 kilometres from the parent plant.”

The VSTWP advocates that best practice management is to control and treat mature Serrated Tussock plants prior to flowering and seeding each season with a registered herbicide or manual removal/cultivation. With the season looking ideal for the further growth and spread of Serrated Tussock, the VSTWP would like to ask landowners and managers to act now to prevent further seeding and detrimental impacts of this noxious weed.

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 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 treatment options.

For further information, please visit www.serratedtussock.com, or contact the VSTWP on info@serratedtussock.com.



Victorian
Serrated Tussock
Working Party

