

Northern Winchelsea and Buckley communities are gearing for an attack on serrated tussock in 2013

Victorian
Serrated Tussock
Working Party

Two small rural communities Winchelsea and Buckley, are about to embark on an extensive attack against serrated tussock, now one of the most serious invasive plant problems of the west and central grazing areas in Victoria.

Scattered serrated tussock infestations have been found in the area and if left untreated, will rapidly reduce biodiversity in native grasslands and seriously reduce agricultural capacity. In fact, serrated tussock is regarded as a Weed of National Significance and causes greater reductions in carrying capacity than any other plant in Australia.

“Prevention and early detection of new infestations and replacement of existing infestations is critical”.

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP), in partnership with various stakeholders including landholders, landcare, industry, community groups, local government, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Department of Environment and Primary Industries aims to *support* the Winchelsea and Buckley areas in order to raise awareness of the invasive plant, promote best practice management and encourage communities to voluntarily manage the invasive species.

Over the next five months, landholders located in the north Winchelsea and Buckley areas will be offered a free property visit and a free individual aerial property map containing any found serrated tussock infestations. The program will also offer;

- Landholder Information package detailing ST identification, control & management options
- Opportunity to attend serrated tussock information sessions
- Technical advice on serrated tussock control and management for each situation
- On-going extension support

Serrated tussock invasion is a symptom of the land management occurring. 'The serrated tussock message is about integrated weed management and sustainable land management'. This project will bring significant economic, environmental and social benefits to the Winchelsea and Buckley communities. For further information, please contact Mandy Coulson, Extension Officer, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party on 0488 526 123 or nrmextension@exemail.com.au.

