

Nassella neesiana [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Cyperales	Poaceae

Common name	Chilean needle grass (English)
Synonym	<i>Stipa neesiana</i> , Trin. & Rupr.
Similar species	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i> , <i>Nassella charruana</i> , <i>Nassella hyalina</i> , <i>Nassella lecotricha</i> , <i>Nassella tenuissima</i>
Summary	<i>Nassella neesiana</i> (Chilean needle grass) threatens the ecological integrity of affected natural ecosystems and also causes significant devastation in agricultural areas due to the reduction in pasture palatability and also direct damage to stock.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Perennial tussock forming C3 grass of up to 1m high. Flat leaves 1-5mm diameter, strongly ribbed on adaxial surface with rough margins. Inflorescence an open panicle; stem seeds (cleistogenes) are also produced (Gardner, 1998).

Notes

Nassella neesiana was previously known as *Stipa neesiana*. It is difficult to distinguish from native *Stipas*.

Lifecycle Stages

Peak flowering of Chilean needle grass in Australia occurs between November and February (Gardner, 1998), however it has the ability to flower all year round (Ens, 2002). The seed bank has been estimated to potentially persist in the soil for up to 12 years even with annual glyphosate application (Bourdote and Hurrell 1992)!

Uses

Good stock feed during winter only

Habitat Description

In Australia it invades disturbed grasslands and grassy woodlands of temperate regions with more than 500mm rainfall (Gardner, 1998)

Reproduction

Reproduces by sexual (chasmogamous) and asexual (cleistogamous) seed production. The cleistogenes are formed in the leaf sheaths and culms while the chasmogenes are found in the inflorescence (Gardner, 1998). Up to 22,000 chasmogamous seeds/plant/year can be produced (Bourdote and Hurrell 1992). Production of the asexual seeds is a common response following slashing, grazing or fire (Gardner, 1998).



General Impacts

Nassella neesiana has the tendency to replace native flora (Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand *et al.*, 2000; Ens, 2002), reduce ant abundance and alter the entire invertebrate community composition in conservation areas (Ens, 2002). Potential distribution overlaps an array of threatened species in Australia (Thorpe and Lynch, 2000). Agricultural productivity is thwarted by the replacement of palatable ground cover, injury to stock, reduction of produce quality and increased management costs (Thorpe and Lynch, 2000). Some sheep graziers in eastern Australia have been forced to switch to beef production (Thorpe and Lynch, 2000).

Management Info

Preventative measures: A combination of chemical, mechanical, rehabilitation, competition, grazing management, biological control techniques and hygiene regimes are required to eradicate Chilean Needle Grass (Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand *et al.*, 2000). As yet there is an absence of an effective herbicide (Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand *et al.* 2000).

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] AUSTRALIA

[1] NEW ZEALAND

BIBLIOGRAPHY

6 references found for *Nassella neesiana*

Management information

[Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage, 2003. Chilean needle grass \(*Nassella neesiana*\). Weeds of National Significance: Weed Management Guide Department of the Environment and Heritage and the CRC for Australian Weed Management, 2003.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.weeds.gov.au/publications/guidelines/wons/n-neesiana.html> [Accessed 23 October 2008]

Gardner, M. R. and Sindel, B. M. 1998. The biology of *Nassella* and *Achnatherum* species naturalized in Australia and the implications for management on conservation lands. *Plant Protection Quarterly* 13(2): 76-79

Summary: In-text reference (Gardner and Sindel, 1998)

General information

Bourdot, G. W. and Hurrell, G. A. 1992. Aspects of the ecology of *Stipa neesiana* seeds. *New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research*.32: 317-326

Summary: In-text reference (Bourdot and Hurrell 1992)

Ens, E. J. 2002. Chilean Needle Grass on the Cumberland Plain: expose of distribution and impacts on invertebrates. Honours thesis. University of New South Wales.

Summary: In-text reference (Ens, 2002)

Gardner, M. R. 1998. The biology of *Nassella Neesiana* (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth (Chilean needle grass) in pastures on the northern tablelands of New South Wales: weed or pasture? PhD thesis. The University of New England

Summary: In-text reference (Gardner, 1998)

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database *Nassella neesiana*](#)

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from:

http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Nassella+neesiana&p_format=&p_ifx=plgt&p_lang= [Accessed March 2005]