

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process¹ for: *Nassella tenuissima*

In 2022/23, a number of species on the EPPO Observation List were re-prioritized with current information to assess if they should remain on the Observation List or be moved to another list. This is the prioritization summary for *Nassella tenuissima* where the outcome is the species should remain on the Observation List.

Section A. Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

A.1 Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes: *Nassella tenuissima* is native to California, New Mexico, Texas, Argentina, Chile (EPPO 2012).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)

Yes the species is established in the EPPO region. The species has been recorded in France, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Spain, Switzerland (<https://powo.science.kew.org/>).

A.3 Is the plant species known to be invasive outside the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.4 Based on ecoclimatic conditions, could the species establish in the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.5 How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High spread potential with a medium uncertainty: *Nassella tenuissima* spreads by thousands of seeds which spread naturally by wind or water, they adhere to clothing and livestock and can be dispersed on farm machinery or as a contaminant of seeds and fodder (EPPO 2012). *N. tenuissima* grows in dry temperate climate with annual rainfall ranging from 300 to 800 mm (EPPO 2012).

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

Medium with a high uncertainty: *Nassella tenuissima* is an extremely vigorous, invasive plant, which crowds out desirable pasture species, reducing stock carrying capacity. *Nassella tenuissima* can also crowd out native grasses in coastal or open areas (GISD 2023). The species also invade banks of continental water, riverbanks/canalsides (dry river beds) and forests (EPPO 2012).

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

Medium with a high uncertainty: *Nassella tenuissima* have a high fibre content and a low nutritive value, and form indigestible balls in the stomach of stock, leading to significant losses in stock production. The sharp seeds may cause injury to stock, including blindness. As seeds contaminate wool, they can devalue its value.

¹ EPPO (2012) EPPO Prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin 42, 463-474.

A.8 How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Low with a high uncertainty: The species have been introduced into the EPPO region for ornamental purposes.

Outcome of Section A: *Nassella tenuissima* is included on the EPPO Observation List

		A5 -Spread potential		
		Low	Medium	High
Adverse impacts (maximum rating from questions A6, A7 and A8.	Low	List of minor concern	List of minor concern	List of minor concern
	Medium	List of minor concern	Observation List	Observation List
	High	Observation List	Observation List	List of invasive alien plants

Nassella tenuissima is not considered further. The assessment stops here.

B. Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1 Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

B.2 Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

B.3 Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Outcome of section B:

Selected references

Jacobs, S.W.L., Everett, J. and Torres, M.A. (1998). *Nassella tenuissima* recorded from Australia, a potential weed related to serrated tussock. *Telopea* 8(1), 41-46.

EPPO (2012) Mini data sheet on *Stipa trichotoma*, *Stipa neesiana* and *Stipa tenuissima*. Available at: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/STDNE/documents>

Global Invasive Species Database (2023) Species profile: *Nassella tenuissima*. Downloaded from <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/speciesname/Nassella+tenuissima> on 16-04-2023.

Plants of the World Online. <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:281184-2>