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Where contacting a Regional Weed Management Officer is recommended please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777.

Chilean Needle Grass - Statutory Weed Management Plan

***Nassella neesiana* (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth.**

Interpretation:

In this Weed Management Plan (approved 30 August 2003):
(amendments approved 21 June 2011):

- "Act" means the *Weed Management Act 1999*.
- "Approved quarantine place" means a place approved by the Secretary under section 70 of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* for the purpose of examining any prescribed matter imported into or to be exported out of the State.
- "Court fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the *Act*. Court fines may be imposed if a person is convicted of any offence against the *Act*.
- "DPIPWE" means the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.
- "Infringement fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the *Act*. Infringement fines are imposed by way of an infringement notice that may be issued by a Weed Inspector.
- "Inspector" means a Weed Inspector appointed under section 34 of the *Act*.
- "Penalty unit" means the basic unit of the fine for which persons who fail to comply with any prohibition or requirement under the *Act* may be liable. See [values of penalty units](#) under the *Penalty Units and Other Penalties Act 1987* for more details.
- "Quarantine Tasmania" means that branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment that, in cooperation with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, maintains both overseas and interstate quarantine barriers for this State.
- "Regional Weed Management Officer" means a person employed in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment under that specific title.
- "Regulations" means the *Weed Management Regulations 2007*. "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- "WONS" means Weeds of National Significance. The WONS program is a federally funded initiative for the development and implementation of State and national strategies for the management of twenty of Australia's worst weeds.
- "Zone A" includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which eradication of a declared weed is the principal management objective. These municipalities are either free of the declared weed, host only small, isolated infestations, or host larger infestations which are deemed eradicable because a strategic management plan exists and the resources required to implement it have been or are likely to be secured. See Management of Chilean needle grass by municipality (Section 12) for details.

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- “Zone B” includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which containment of the declared weed is the principal management objective. Such municipalities host large, widespread infestations of the declared weed that are not deemed eradicable because the feasibility of effective management is low at this time. These municipalities lack a strategic management plan for the weed and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication have not been secured. See [Management of Chilean needle grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.
- “Chilean needle grass” means *Nassella neesiana* (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth (syn. *Stipa neesiana*) and includes the whole plant or plant parts. It does not include products such as tablets, lotions, tinctures or other preparations that contain extracts of these plants or other dead *Nassella neesiana* materials. People who are uncertain about whether certain products (e.g. dried materials) contain plant parts capable of regenerating should contact a Regional Weed Management Officer.

1. Purpose of this management plan:

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan for Chilean needle grass is to:

- Provide direction upon the implementation of the *Act* with respect to Chilean needle grass.
- Encourage and facilitate an increase in the effectiveness with which Chilean needle grass is managed throughout Tasmania, with a view to eradicating all existing populations and preventing future infestations.
- Provide legislative support to the national Weeds of National Significance strategy for Chilean needle grass.
- Provide legislative support to regional and local efforts to manage Chilean needle grass in a strategic and integrated manner that is commensurate with the national WONS strategy.

2. Area covered by this management plan:

The State of Tasmania is covered by this management plan.

3. Description and distribution of the weed:

Chilean needle grass is an invasive perennial tussock-forming grass that may grow to 50 cm high.

This plant has an extremely large potential distribution across native ecosystems and grazing areas in Australia. It is also a Weed of National Significance.

Currently Chilean needle grass populations are limited to the urban areas of Hobart, particularly the Eastern Shore, where it is found along roadside reserves and nature strips. These infestations are currently subject to an eradication program. Refer to [Management of Chilean needle grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for information on the distribution of Chilean needle grass in Tasmania by municipality.

See the [DPIPWE Chilean Needle Grass Information Page](#) for more information on this weed.

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4. Importation of declared weed:

(1) A person must not import or allow to be imported into Tasmania any Chilean needle grass.

It is an offence against section 57(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted in court of that offence may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons travelling to Tasmania, in particular from areas infested with Chilean needle grass, such as Victoria and New South Wales, should conduct thorough searches for the presence of the plant and apply appropriate hygiene measures, such as clothing, vehicle, machinery and baggage inspection and cleaning. Mud and soil, in particular, are to be removed prior to entry to Tasmania. Questions or concerns about weed hygiene issues should be directed to Quarantine Tasmania personnel before or directly upon disembarkation in Tasmania.
- Persons importing items to Tasmania that may contain Chilean needle grass should have these checked for the presence of the plant. This can be arranged through Quarantine Tasmania.

(2) Feed grain may be imported according to specifications in the Plant Quarantine Manual (Tasmania), Import Requirement 30 – Declared Weeds, Pests and Diseases in Feed Grain. This document establishes requirements for importing feed grain in order to minimise the risk of declared weed seed entry and establishment. Import Requirement 30 should be consulted by all existing and prospective feed grain importers.

(3) A person must not import any livestock that may be carrying Chilean needle grass otherwise than in accordance with any measures prescribed under the Regulations.

It is an offence against section 57(3) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing this offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.

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The prescribed measures for importing stock under regulation 5 of the Regulations are as follows:

- a) the length of hairs in the coat is not to exceed 25 mm;
- b) seeds are not to adhere to the coat or anywhere else on the livestock;
- c) a permit for importation is obtained from the Secretary, DPIPW;E;
- d) importation is direct to an approved facility for slaughter.

Actions to assist compliance in this matter could include but are not limited to the following:

- Persons importing livestock to Tasmania should liaise with suppliers on the subject of possible Chilean needle grass contamination of stock.
- Persons purchasing livestock imported from areas infested with Chilean needle grass should ensure their animals are confined to holding pens until they have undergone thorough external inspections and complete bowel evacuation. Pens should be checked subsequently for the emergence of Chilean needle grass.
- Anyone importing stock to Tasmania should make him/herself familiar with regulation 5 of the Regulations.

Note: The importation of this species into Tasmania is also restricted under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*. Quarantine Tasmania should be contacted for information on the relevance and application of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* to activities concerning plant species.

5. Procedures for notification of the occurrence of the weed:

Inspectors shall notify a Regional Weed Management Officer of any Chilean needle grass occurrences in municipalities or parts of municipalities where the weed is not yet recorded. Refer to Table 1 in [Management of Chilean needle grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for distribution of Chilean needle grass in Tasmania by municipality.

6. Sale, purchase, propagation, use, &c., of declared weed:

(1) A person must not:

- (a) sell Chilean needle grass or any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass; or**
- (b) purchase or offer to purchase Chilean needle grass or any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass; or**
- (c) grow, propagate or scatter Chilean needle grass; or**
- (d) store Chilean needle grass or any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass; or**

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- (e) hire or offer for hire any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass; or**
- (f) use Chilean needle grass or any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass; or**
- (g) deal with Chilean needle grass or any material or thing containing or carrying Chilean needle grass in any manner that is likely to result in the spread of the declared weed.**

It is an offence against section 56(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural or roading machinery likely to be contaminated with mud or soil containing Chilean needle grass should ensure that this equipment is free of this plant by undertaking appropriate inspection and hygiene measures. These include introducing thorough visual checks and cleaning of machinery as routine tasks when preparing these items for sale or distribution.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with livestock that may be carrying Chilean needle grass should ensure appropriate hygiene measures are undertaken to prevent spread of this plant. These include cleaning stock prior to transport from infested properties.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with soil, gravel, lime or other such materials from areas infested with Chilean needle grass should seek alternative stock sources unless they can guarantee these materials are free of Chilean needle grass.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural or roading machinery, stock, soil, gravel or other such materials likely to be contaminated with Chilean needle grass should take direction from any local, regional or State hygiene programs being implemented in the municipality.
- Persons purchasing or hiring any items (e.g. machinery, soil, gravel or other such materials) likely to be contaminated with Chilean needle grass should liaise with suppliers for guarantees of Chilean needle grass free goods and materials and keep accurate records of their purchase transactions. Buyers discovering Chilean needle grass contamination post-purchase should implement practices that reduce the potential for Chilean needle grass establishment and spread. These include, creating dedicated areas for the wash

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down of purchased machinery and vehicles and carefully monitoring any suspect soil, gravel or other such materials for the emergence of this weed.

(2) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under section 56(1) of the Act if the defendant establishes that he or she took all reasonable actions to prevent the commission of the offence.

7. Measures to reduce the number of Chilean needle grass plants, eradicate Chilean needle grass from an area or restrict Chilean needle grass to a particular area:

An Inspector may, by serving a notice on the owner of any place, require that owner to implement any of the measures described in this part of the Weed Management Plan or any other measures consistent with it.

It is an offence against section 13(3) of the Act to fail to comply with a requirement notice issued by an Inspector. A person who fails to comply with that notice may be issued with an infringement fine of 8 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 5 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.

Persons or organisations upon whose properties Chilean needle grass occurs should undertake the following:

- Planning and implementation of an integrated control program the aim of which is eradication of Chilean needle grass. Such a program should include an inventory of Chilean needle grass infestations in the area to which the plan relates, well-defined objectives, practicable control actions, follow-up actions, a realistic timeline and a budget, as a minimum. Regional Weed Management Officer or Inspectors may be contacted for advice on developing integrated control plans.
- Seek information about supporting any council endorsed plans relating to Chilean needle grass management in their municipality.
- Seek cooperation with neighbouring property owners when Chilean needle grass control measures are being planned or implemented.

Other general measures:

- Persons or organisations responsible for managing land which is currently free of Chilean needle grass should undertake prevention measures, especially when that land is suited to Chilean needle grass establishment. Such prevention measures include:
 - Developing an ability to identify the plant;
 - Noting its occurrence and progress on nearby properties; Undertaking control of small outbreaks without delay;

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- Arranging on-site quarantine for, or not bringing or allowing onto the property vehicles, machinery, soil, gravel, lime or other such material that may be contaminated with Chilean needle grass.

A Regional Weed Management Officer may be contacted for advice on keeping areas free of Chilean needle grass.

- Persons performing contract work of an agricultural, utility maintenance, roading or earthmoving nature, on-site consultations or assessments, deliveries or other visits in areas or properties infested with Chilean needle grass should undertake appropriate hygiene measures. These include thorough visual checks upon clothing, footwear, vehicles and machinery and, cleaning of the same of mud and soil in particular, prior to leaving the infested property. Developing a check-list will help ensure such routines are rigorous and consistent. Materials or items likely to be contaminated with Chilean needle grass should not be moved from Chilean needle grass infested areas or to Chilean needle grass free areas until any contamination risks have been minimised.
- Persons wishing to dispose of Chilean needle grass or any thing contaminated with Chilean needle grass should contact an Inspector or a Regional Weed Management Officer first, in order to receive direction upon how best to do this. Note that municipal waste disposal facilities vary in their acceptance and handling of declared weeds. Municipal waste disposal managers should be contacted for details.
- Persons wishing to transport Chilean needle grass or any thing contaminated with Chilean needle grass, for the purpose of disposal, should ensure this is undertaken in a manner that does not permit the release and spread of Chilean needle grass material. Measures include securing material in bags or under tarpaulins prior to transport, checking material at regular intervals during long journeys, and adequately cleaning vehicles after materials have been unloaded.

8. Storage in a specified area of any thing contaminated with the declared weed:

Any thing found to be contaminated with Chilean needle grass may be removed to storage at an appropriate approved quarantine place. A Regional Weed Management Officer will determine whether removal to storage at any of these facilities or treatment/destruction of material *in situ* is most appropriate.

Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence against section 51(1) of the Act. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

The Secretary may exempt a person from this requirement under section 60 of the Act.

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To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- A person who discovers or suspects he/she possesses any thing, (e.g. machinery, soil, gravel) contaminated with Chilean needle grass should contact an Inspector or a Regional Weed Management Officer. The contaminated thing should not be moved, disturbed, treated or disposed of prior to making this contact. If Chilean needle grass is confirmed, the person will be directed and advised in the proper management, including storage or disposal options, of the contaminated thing.

9. Any other measures the Minister considers appropriate to control the weed:

There are no other measures appropriate for the management of Chilean needle grass in Tasmania at this time.

10. Exemptions:

A person may apply for an exemption from any of provisions of the *Act* that relate to Chilean needle grass. He/she should contact a Regional Weed Management Officer to discuss the reasons for seeking the exemption and obtain an exemption application form.

Persons granted an exemption should ensure they understand fully, any conditions specified in the exemption. Queries can be directed to a Regional Weed Management Officer.

11. Review of this Weed Management Plan:

A review of this Weed Management Plan may be undertaken at least once every five years if it is necessary and desirable to do so. The review will incorporate consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Secretary, DPIPW.

12. Management of Chilean needle grass by municipality:

Each Tasmanian municipality is classified into one of two management zones (Zones A or B) for the purposes of implementing this Weed Management Plan for Chilean needle grass.

Zone A Municipalities - eradication: Eradication is the most appropriate management objective for Zone A municipalities which have little or no Chilean needle grass, or when a credible plan for eradicating existing infestations is being developed and implemented. The ultimate management outcome for Zone A municipalities is achieving and maintaining the

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total absence of Chilean needle grass from within municipal boundaries.

Zone B municipalities - containment: Containment is the most appropriate management objective for Zone B municipalities which have problematic infestations but no plan and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication. The management outcome for Zone B municipalities is ongoing prevention of the spread of Chilean needle grass from existing infestations to areas free or in the process of becoming free of Chilean needle grass.

The decision regarding which category is most appropriate for a particular municipality at a particular time is made jointly by DPIPWE and each municipality. Municipalities may change categories over time. For example, a Zone B municipality may decide to develop and implement a strategic plan for Chilean needle grass, with eradication as the objective. Provided the plan is credible, this municipality would qualify for inclusion in Zone A. Conversely, a Zone A municipality with widespread infestations may decide to stop supporting a strategic plan for Chilean needle grass eradication, in which case it would be re- classed as Zone B.

Table 1 lists the distribution and management measures of all Tasmanian municipalities currently classified as Zone A for Chilean needle grass. Note that all municipalities are currently classed as Zone A for Chilean needle grass.

Table 1. Distribution and management measures for Chilean needle grass in municipalities classified as Zone A at 01/2011. Distribution based on Tasmanian Herbarium and DPIPWE records.

Municipality	Chilean needle grass distribution	Management measures*
Break O'Day	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Brighton	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Burnie	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Central Coast	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Central Highlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Circular Head	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Clarence	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Derwent Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Devonport	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Dorset	None recorded	Prevention and early detection

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Municipality	Chilean needle grass distribution	Management measures*
Flinders	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
George Town	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Glenorchy	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Hobart	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Huon Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Kentish	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
King Island	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Kingborough	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Latrobe	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Launceston	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Meander Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Northern Midlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Sorell	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Southern Midlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Tasman	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Waratah/Wynyard	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
West Coast	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
West Tamar	None recorded	Prevention and early detection

*When a DPIPWE approved weed management strategy that has local council endorsement exists, management of this declared weed in the municipality concerned should occur with direct reference to that strategy.

The following distribution categories are used in Table 1:

“None recorded”. This means the plant is not known to be naturalised in the municipality, either from the records of the Tasmanian Herbarium or from DPIPWE databases. In cases where the plant was known to be naturalised at a previous time but is not known there currently, the description “Previously recorded, none known now” is used.

“Isolated occurrences”. This means the species is uncommon in the municipality, with

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populations limited to one or a few. The number of plants is generally small and/or populations cover small areas.

“Localised infestations”. This means the species is present in the municipality in moderate proportions, with populations numbering several. The number of plants is also moderate and/or populations cover moderate-sized areas.

“Widespread infestations”. This means the species is very common in the municipality, with many populations present. The number of plants present is generally large and/or populations cover large areas.

Note that the distribution descriptions presented in Table 1 apply to naturalised populations of the plant only. They do not include amenity, garden, horticultural or other deliberate plantings unless specified. The descriptions are relative and provide a general indication only of the spatial status of the plant in the municipality. Detailed location information may be obtained by contacting a Regional Weed Management Officer. In addition, if you have reason to believe any of the distribution information presented in Table 1 is incorrect, please advise a Regional Weed Management Officer.