Mexican feather grass
*Nassella tenuissima*

Biosecurity Queensland investigations have discovered Queensland landscapers and retail nursery outlets have accidently purchased Mexican feather grass for use in landscaping or sale to the general public.

This grass produces numerous seeds and could severely degrade native grasslands and pasture lands while providing no nutritional value to stock.

**Description**

Mexican feather grass is a perennial grass forming dense tussocks around 0.8 metres high. Leaf blades are approx. 0.25mm to 0.5mm wide, 600mm long and tightly rolled. Small serrations along the margins can be felt when moving fingers down along the blade. Young seed heads are hidden amongst the leaves while the mature seed head grows to 150mm - 250mm long and forms a matted appearance. Often sold as ‘Elegant spear grass’ the spear grass like seeds will stick to clothing, pets and vehicles so are readily dispersed by this method.

Flowers in summer and seeds all year.

**Management**

If you see or suspect Mexican feather grass, call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Mexican feather grass plants have been recovered from nurseries, landscapers and private gardens. The challenge is to trace plants that were sold by retail outlets as plants may have been bought in one area but taken to other towns or suburbs for planting. The public's help is needed to trace and retrieve the remaining plants.

Sites where Mexican feather grass has been found are to undergo a decontamination process to remove as much seed as possible and are restored to original condition.

When Mexican feather grass is discovered, the plant is first removed, then weed matting is installed to minimise seed germination. The site is then restored with soil and mulch.

If you would like further information on Mexican feather grass look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at Queensland Government Website.