

Chilean Needle Grass ID & Mapping

Trent McIntyre - Biosecurity Officer - New England Weeds Authority



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee



Chilean Needle Grass

- ▶ Chilean needle grass is a perennial grass native to South America. It is a serious weed of pastures and native grasslands.
- ▶ Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective - ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of Region) This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.



How to ID Chilean Needle Grass

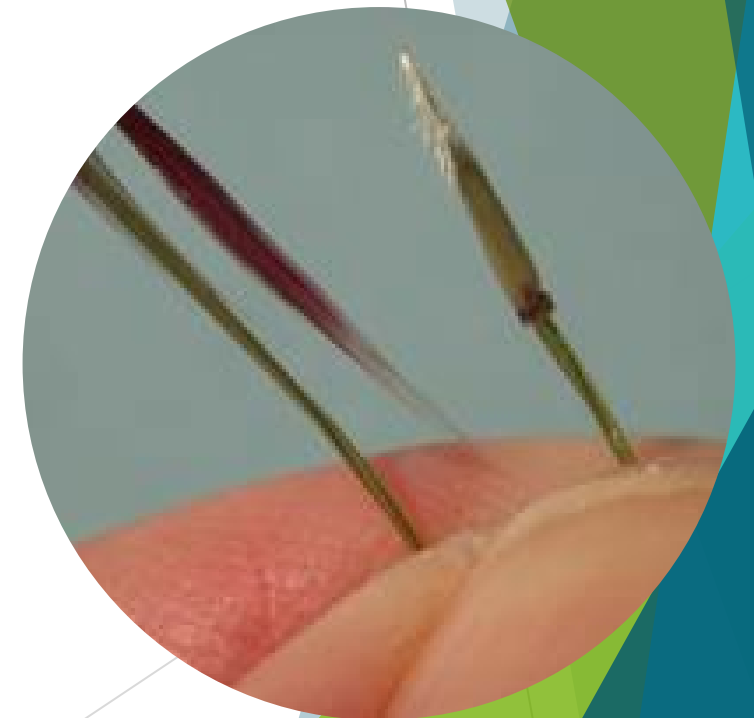
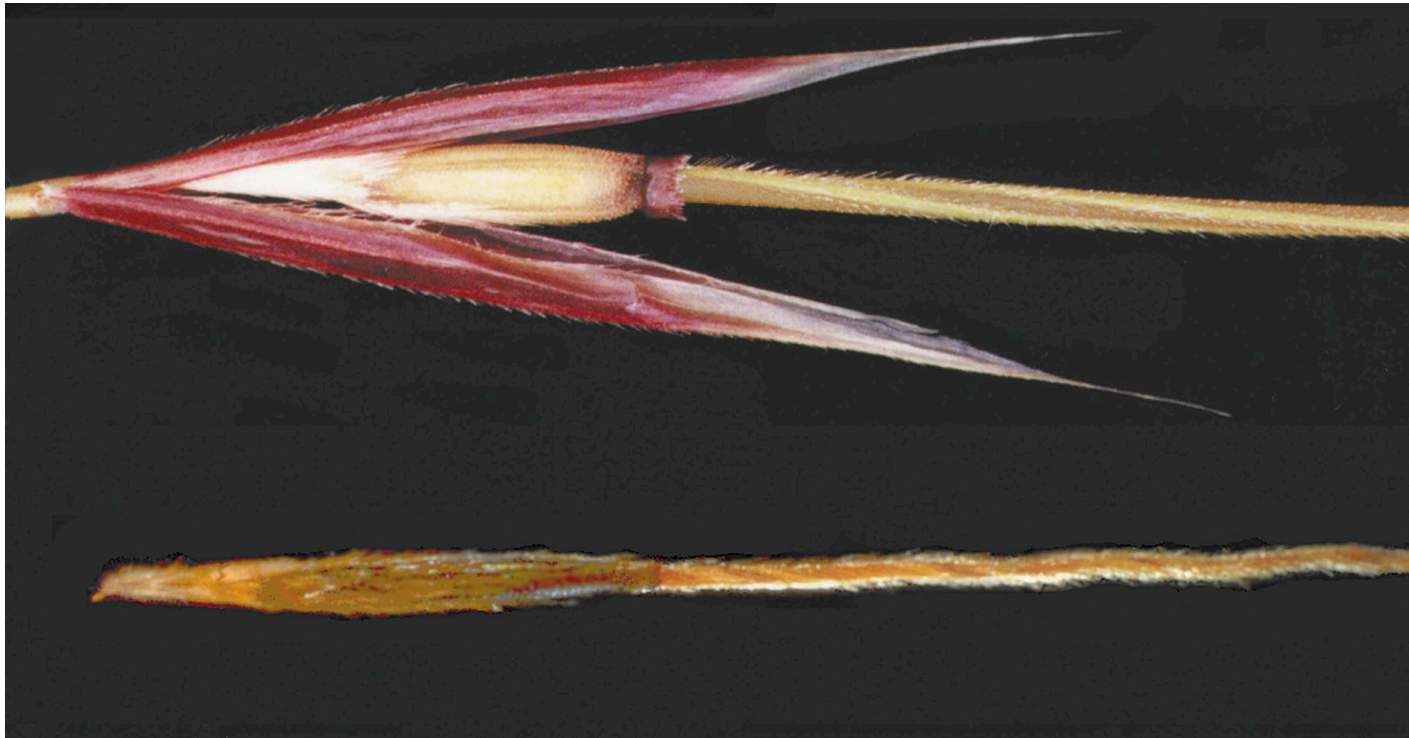
Chilean needle grass is a perennial (long-lived) tussock-forming grass growing to 1 metre in height. The leaves are 1 to 5 mm wide, flat and strongly ribbed on their upper surface, with leaf edges that are rough to touch.

Chilean needle grass is a perennial (long-lived) tussock-forming grass growing to 1 metre in height. The leaves are 1 to 5 mm wide, flat and strongly ribbed on their upper surface, with leaf edges that are rough to touch.

Spread is by seed. In addition to the normal flower (panicle) seeds, Chilean needle grass produces hidden seeds which are formed in the nodes and bases of the flowering stems. These 'stem seeds' are self-fertilised and account for about one-quarter of total seed production. They enable the plant to survive despite grazing, slashing and fire.

How to ID Chilean Needle Grass - seed

- ▶ The most distinctive feature of Chilean needle grass seed is the corona **at the join of the seed body** and the seed awn. Before flowering, green leafy plants of Chilean needle grass can be mistaken for many other winter green species, especially *Austrodanthonia* and *Festuca*.



Have a Question?

Trent McIntyre

Biosecurity Officer - New England Weeds Authority

0438 501 286

tmcintyre@newa.nsw.gov.au

