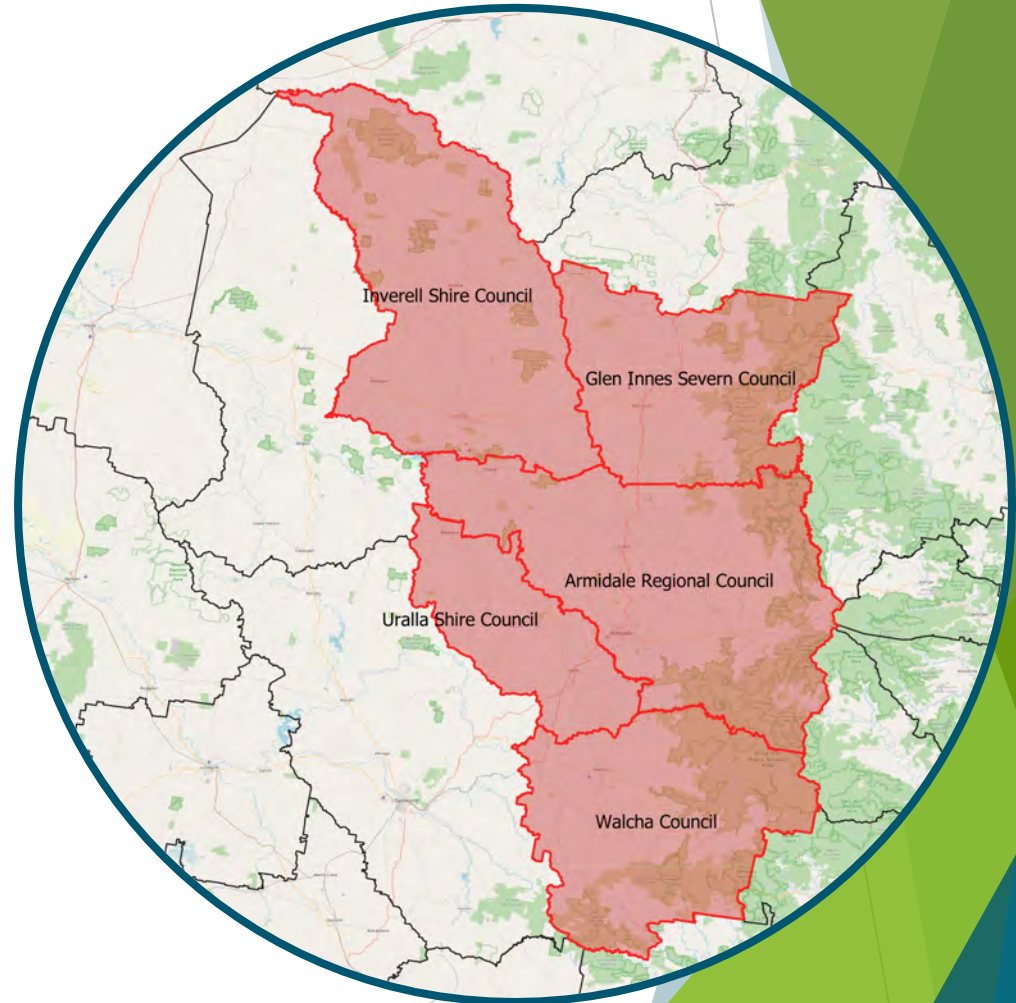


Chilean Needle Grass ID

Trent McIntyre - Biosecurity Team Leader - New England Weeds Authority

Who are NEWA and what do we do?

- ▶ Single purpose County Council responsible for plant biosecurity in Walcha, Uralla, Armidale, Glen Innes and Inverell.
- ▶ Local Control Authority (LCA) across all land tenures.
- ▶ Here to help.



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. The spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.



How to ID Chilean Needle Grass

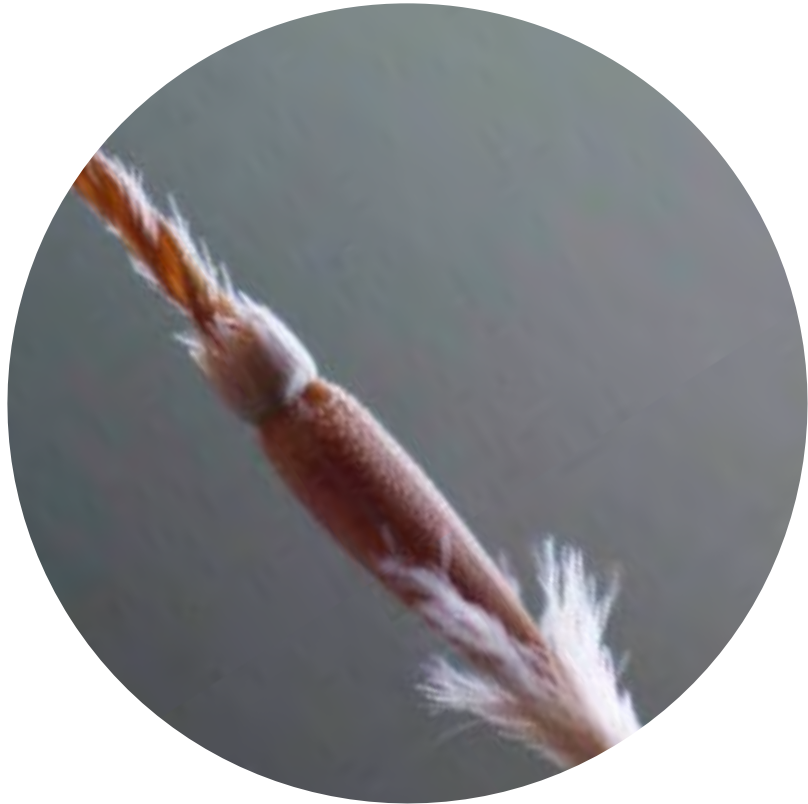
Chilean needle grass is a perennial (long-lived) tussock-forming grass growing to 1 metre in height. The leaves are 1 to 5 mm wide, flat and strongly ribbed on their upper surface, with leaf edges that are rough to touch.

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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*.



Serrated Tussock

- ▶ Serrated tussock grows in upright tussocks.
- ▶ In late spring and early summer the clumps have a purple tinge when the seed heads emerge fully.
- ▶ Plants remain green in winter when other grasses turn brown.



Have a Question?

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