



The 2017/18 nassella season – district by district

COMPLIANCE

In the Hurunui district in 2017/18:

A total of 895 properties are known to have an occurrence of nassella tussock. 757 of these receive a compliance return, asking the land occupier to undertake work before either 30 September or 31 October.

204 of these properties were inspected this year. It was great to see that of these, 70% complied at the initial inspection. Well done to those who complete a successful control programme each year. You are making a positive difference to the population density in our district. It is still concerning that 30% of properties require more work to comply with the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) rules. The average size of these properties is 875 hectares. Many properties have for a number of years failed to meet their obligation to the community by controlling the nassella tussock on their property by compliance date. This has a continued negative impact on neighbours and the trend analysis used to monitor the effectiveness of the RPMP.

Biosecurity staff encourage all land occupiers to make a concerted effort to control nassella tussock by the due date on their compliance return to ensure a reduction in plant numbers. Time lost doing re-inspections averages about 80 days a year. That's at the cost of other work the community would rather see Biosecurity staff doing.

If you know of a neighbour or peer who is struggling to control their tussock by the required date, please offer them assistance. It could be as simple as advice on what works for you or offering to give them a hand.



PROPERTIES



- There were 89 extra inspections required on 61 properties due to non-compliance. This equates to 70-89 days lost due to re-inspections.
- The average size of the properties found non-compliant was 875 hectares.



Kaikōura

There are currently 62 known nassella sites in Kaikōura. Previously all properties had been inspected annually, but this year due to access issues this was not possible. The properties range in size from 1 hectare to nearly 2500. 45 properties were inspected with an excellent 88% compliance rate. Only 4 properties were found non-compliant, one of which resulted in a notice of direction being issued.

This is a great achievement and a credit to the land occupiers in Kaikōura who are doing such a good job in difficult circumstances.

Waimakariri

There are only 24 known sites that have or have had nassella tussock. Biosecurity staff check these sites annually and if necessary control any nassella found. No nassella tussock has been found on private land.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility.

Contractors implement farm biosecurity measures

In light of recent high-profile biosecurity incursions such as mycoplasma bovis, Environment Canterbury held a contractor meeting in February to discuss what measures contractors are taking to prevent spreading pests and diseases when moving between farms.

The feedback from contractors was very positive, with all those in attendance already having a vehicle hygiene policy in place and carrying water blasters on board to wash down before they leave a farm. Contractors also reported that most farmers are now regularly discussing biosecurity requirements with them before they start work.

When contractors visit your farm, ask them about their hygiene policy for vehicles, machinery and equipment, and let them know of any biosecurity requirements on your farm. If possible, make a water supply available to contractors so they are able to wash down before leaving your property.

Implementing simple on-farm biosecurity measures could help protect your property from a potentially devastating biosecurity incursion.

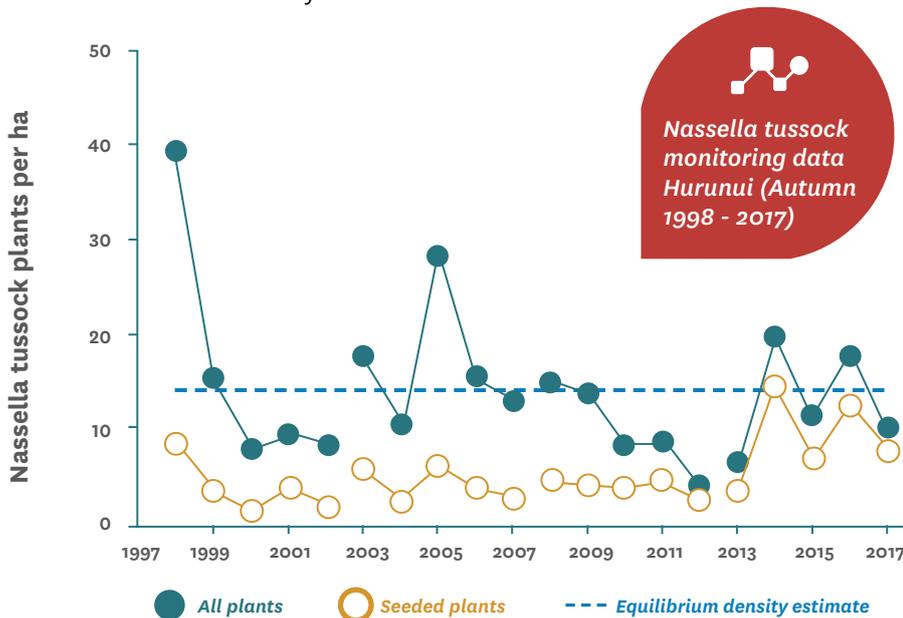
 For more information, go to www.ecan.govt.nz/onfarmbiosecurity



Charles Wiffen, farmer and chairman of the CNG Awareness Committee, promotes on-farm biosecurity

Nassella monitoring results

Every year Environment Canterbury, together with the farming community and AgResearch, monitors nassella properties to check whether implementing the rules in the Regional Pest Management Plan are reducing nassella tussock in the region. Last year's monitoring information is shown on the graph. Nassella tussock has remained static over the years with an equilibrium of about 14 plants per hectare. Nassella monitoring is underway currently and the information gained this season will be available later in the year.



Reminder to book now

As we approach autumn it is time to think about booking in your contractor. There is a limited number of nassella tussock contractors available to do control work. If you wish to make sure they get to your property by 31 October, give them a call and sort out a date. We are encouraging contractors to only book in work they can comfortably complete by due date, and it is important that you play your part.

 A list of contractors can be emailed to you by contacting biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz Otherwise a list will be sent out in the next few months.



Nassella scattered throughout a riverbed