

## PLANT PEST CONTROL

### LAND PLANT PESTS

#### African Feathergrass: *Pennisetum macrourum*

##### **Why are we worried?**

This plant forms dense stands excluding other desirable vegetation. It has the potential to become a major weed of roadsides, rivers, wasteland and urban areas.

##### **What does it look like?**

- It is a perennial grass that forms dense clumps up to 2m tall. The clumps also have the appearance of pampas grass.
- The leaf blades are linear, up to 60cm long, 4 – 12mm wide, and taper to a fine tip. The upper surface of the blade is white-green, with prominent ribbing. The lower surface is a darker green, with purple along the edge and at the tip. The leaves are tough, harsh and feel rough when fingers are run down them.
- The flower head is a narrow, cylindrical panicle up to 300mm long. The shape of the panicle readily distinguishes it from pampas grass.
- It spreads by stout rhizomes up to 5mm thick. Roots and buds emerge at the nodes. If the rhizome is broken and moved, growth from them will start a new colony.

##### **Where is it found?**

African Feathergrass can be found along stream banks, and in river and stream beds. Infestations may also occur on dry and sandy banks. Established plants are drought resistant.

The plant occurs mainly in the Ngaruroro River area.

##### **What is the best way to control the plant?**

Spot spray with Roundup/glyphosate or Gallant. Dig out isolated plants and burn them or take to a commercial tip.



Flowerhead and plant

**For further information**

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Noxious Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate it.

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