

## Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)



Forms dense clumps



Showy reddish-purple, bristly flower spikes

Fountain grass is an attractive but aggressive tufted perennial grass growing up to 1 m in height. It has been grown as a garden ornamental in many places (also distributed as *Pennisetum ruppelii*) but is now spreading into waste land, often near gardens and could be problematic in the future in dry open forest and grassland.

The plant forms dense clumps with showy reddish-purple, bristly flower spikes. The small dry seed is adorned with long, showy bristles. The seeds are wind dispersed, but can also be carried on clothing.

Small infestations should be uprooted by hand and the flower heads disposed of safely. Large infestations require repeat applications of herbicide, applied by spray or with a weed-wiper.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**