

# Chinese pennisetum (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)



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Chinese pennisetum is an erect, tufted, unpalatable perennial grass up to 1m in height, capable of invading pastoral land. It appears to grow best in wet, warm conditions.

The grass forms large tussocks with long, hairless, wiry leaves. Its flower heads are attractive, purplish, bristly, cylindrical spikes, rather like small bottlebrushes. The seed can be spread in clothes or wool.

Individual plants or small infestations are best controlled with a grass-specific herbicide during active growth periods.

**Chinese pennisetum only grows wild in a few places in New Zealand. Any suspected new infestations should be reported to your Regional Council who can advise on control methods.**