

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN **NEEDLE GRASSES** AND **NATIVE GRASSES**

Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) (WEED)



Photo: Charles Grech

At maturity, if plant is not mown, seed heads usually droop to one side. **Seeds have a tiny collar (corona)** where the long tail (awn) comes out of the seed.

Fine-head Spear Grass (*Austrostipa oligostachya*) (NATIVE)



Photo: Seed Conservation Centre Botanic Gdns SA

Can look similar to Chilean Needle Grass. The best way to tell them apart is that Spear Grass doesn't have a collar on its seed, and the seed is hairier. (See drawings of seeds on reverse side.)

Rough Spear Grass (*Austrostipa scabra*) (NATIVE)

Sometimes confused with Needle Grasses. Although it may look a bit purplish, it is much finer than Chilean Needle Grass and its leaves are rolled, not flat. Heads are normally fairly upright.



Photo: Sam Panter

Wallaby Grasses (*Rytidosperma* spp.) (NATIVES)

Often found near Needle Grasses.



Photo: Seed Conservation Centre Botanic Gdns SA
Striped Wallaby Grass

Awns on Wallaby Grass seeds are much finer and shorter than awns on Needle Grasses – see photos below.



Photo: F. Cincotta

Copper-awned Wallaby Grass has flat leaves like Chilean Needle Grass but a fluffy seed head.



Photo: Ern Perkins

Seed of Striped Wallaby Grass magnified 3 times. It has 3 awns. Needle Grasses have one awn.

Texas Needle Grass (*Nassella leucotricha*) (WEED)



Photo: Ern Perkins

R&F Richardson

May look purplish, like Chilean Needle Grass, but is usually more upright

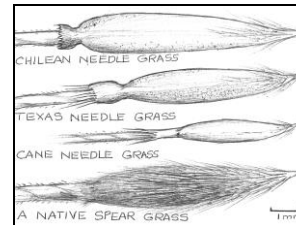
Cane Needle Grass (*Nassella hyalina*) (WEED)



Photo: David McLaren

Photo: Euan Moore

May look similar to Texas Needle Grass, but is finer and wispier and seeds and awns are smaller, and seeds often look yellowish at maturity.



Drawing: Margaret Panter

Seeds of Chilean Needle Grass, Texas Needle Grass, Cane Needle Grass and a native Spear Grass magnified 5x

Espartillo (*Amelichloa caudata*) (WEED)



Photo: Bernard Slattery

Seed has an awn, but no corona. Mowed tufts often feel sharp and spiky.



Photo: Rob & Fiona Richardson

Large Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*) (NATIVE)



Photo: Ian Higgins

Heads are more densely branched than Espartillo's, and the seeds have no awns. Leaves of the local forms are flat or folded. (Espartillo often has rolled leaves which are much stiffer and sharper than those of Large Tussock Grass.)