



Natal red top (*Melinis repens*) is an attractive tussock grass with long reddish silky inflorescences growing to approximately 70 cm high. It is a short-lived perennial that can die back and resprout. The grass can flower throughout the year and is capable of producing large numbers of seed. Unfortunately it is a very attractive garden plant that is capable of escaping into bushland where it becomes a serious environmental weed.

NATAL RED TOP

STOP THE SPREAD



As the name suggests, Natal red top is native to South Africa. It has become an environmental weed in many of the warmer parts of the world, especially southern Australia. In the Pilbara this weed is a relatively new arrival being found mostly on roadsides and the adjacent bushland in the Hamersley Range. Natal red top easily spreads to native bushland where it competes with native grasses and herbs for resources and alters the composition of the native vegetation.

To assist in the management of this serious environmental weed please report any infestations to environment and land management officers.

Photos: Russell Barrett and Emil Thoma