

## IN BRIEF

### BE CAREFUL WHEN PLANTING TALL WHEATGRASS

**M**ANY people are planting Tall Wheatgrass, *Lophopyrum ponticum*, to provide pasture on saline soils. While it is undoubtedly useful for this, a report from Victoria warns that it can also be a serious environmental weed.

Geoff Carr and Matt White of Ecology Australia Pty Ltd, state that: "In southern Australia, this species poses a particular threat to saltmarsh vegetation and is capable of destroying most upper saltmarsh in western Victoria. Spectacular and rapid invasion of *Halosarcia pergranulata* shrubland has been seen at Lake Connewarre. We have also observed this species invading a number of native grasslands and pastures in central, western and north-western Victoria. Invasion by this species has occurred without planting or deliberate introduction for agricultural purposes, ie, it is capable of wide dispersal without direct human agency and its range is expanding rapidly."

Thus, while the plant remains useful for revegetation on secondary saline areas, care should be taken not to introduce it to the original, native, saline ecosystems.