

How to Identify Chilean Needle Grass

At different times of the year.

CNG has a number of characteristics which can help identify it when vegetative.



1. CNG is a very tall tufty grass (tussock like).



2. Best time to identify CNG is after stock have grazed the paddock. They don't like to eat it so it will be more prominent.

Vegetative State



3. CNG appears lime green in comparison to other grasses and yellows-off at the end of winter.



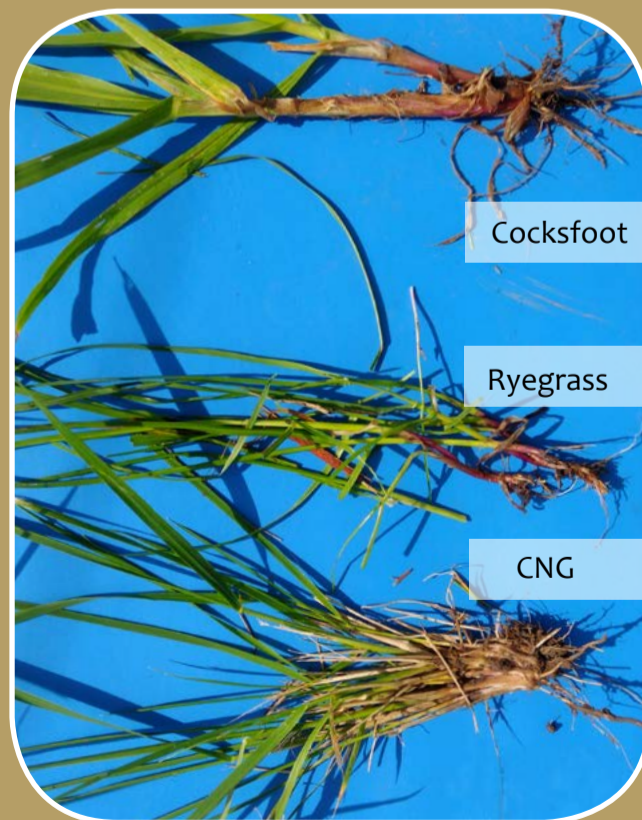
4. CNG has a bulbous base. Occasionally seeds can be seen at base of the plant.



5. The tops of leaves are harsh to the touch when rubbed down the leaf blade. The ligule at the base of the leaf has characteristic hairs.



CNG showing up in the guts and across hill in spring.



Comparison of CNG bulb to Cocksfoot and Ryegrass bulbs.



Leaves are flat (not rolled), narrow and have distinctive veins on top surface.

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At different times of the year.

CNG is most easily identified when flowering.



Reproductive State

1. When reproducing, CNG is almost completely avoided by stock. So dead matter accumulates.
2. Prominent, aerial seed head present from late October until March. CNG often grows tall when seeding.



3. When seed heads first emerge they are a reddish-purple colour.
4. As they mature, seed heads start to lie horizontally.
5. Seed heads fade to light brown later in the season.



6. The long, twisting awns of seeds intertwine and clump. Seeds are approx 7cm in length.
7. The seedhead has a sharp tip with a barb and the awn has a corkscrew appearance.
8. Close-up of seed head. Seeds grab onto clothes and burrow into wool, skin and gums.