

Seen this plant? Foxtail Fern

Asparagus densiflorus



How does this weed affect us?

Foxtail fern grows densely with a robust “mat-like” root system that out-competes and suppresses other plants. Rough and prickly to touch the plant is mostly unpalatable to grazing animals which along with its hardiness and adaptability – allow it to become a significant weed species in varied environments. The plant is often found in private gardens which can assist its spread. Existing plants should be kept potted and not traded.

- Forms swards when unmanaged replacing native vegetation.
- Creates a monocultured ecosystem reducing biodiversity.
- Extensive and robust rhizomatous root system allows it to withstand drought and fire.
- Tubers along the root system store energy allowing the plant to regenerate even when most of its biomass is removed or chemically treated.

Seen it? Call us:

**Cootamundra-Gundagai
Biosecurity Officer:**

1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:**

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

**For control and biosecurity information visit NSW
WeedWise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/foxtailfern**

Where are you likely to find it?

Foxtail fern is not found as commonly as other invasive Asparagus species in bushland (e.g. Ground asparagus) and is most likely to be found in gardens, abandoned building sites, waste disposal land and in areas impacted by illegal dumping.

What does it look like?

Spreading ground-cover in nature the plant proliferates throughout a given area by means of its root system. Upon maturity the plant forms more upright stems of dense, mid to lime-green foliage that resembles a “fox-tail”. Foliage is needle-like and unpleasant to touch. Flowers are very small (white to pale pink) followed by green fruiting bodies (1 cm diameter) that mature orange-red. Encapsulated in the fruit is a singular black seed. If attempting to remove plants from a pot or soil the root system is characterised by robust, fibrous roots that have cream-coloured tubers attached to them.

What can you do?

General Biosecurity Duty

*All pest plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is **prevented, eliminated or minimised**, so far as is reasonably practicable.*

Prohibition on certain dealings

Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.



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