RAVENNA GRASS

Top to bottom: Ravenna grass can grow up to 12 feet tall. As a ladder fuel, ravenna can spread fire from the ground into trees. Ravenna leaves feature fiberglass-like hairs at their base

Scientific name: Tripidium ravennae

Identification

A dramatic bunchgrass, Ravenna grass has reddish-purple or green leaves all originating from a central location. It can grow up to 8 to 12 feet tall with large, tufted seed plumes that turn bronze/purple in fall. Leaves feature a central white stripe and small, fiberglass-like hairs at their base.

The issue

Ravenna grass is an introduced ornamental grass that has started invading waterways in Grand County. It crowds out native plants and forms monocultures, making ecosystems less diverse and functional. Ravenna grass is also highly flammable and functions as a dangerous ladder fuel that can spread fire between the ground and tree canopies.

Initial treatment

Mechanical removal, which includes digging out the entire plant including the root ball. After treatment, the plant will be almost entirely gone. However, resprouts may occur from seeds or small root fragments remaining in the soil. Call Grand County Weed Department (435-259-1369) for free removal.

Follow-up treatment

Removing resprouts by digging or pulling out the plants is highly effective, as long as care is taken to remove all root fragments. If a retreatment requires the use of herbicide or becomes difficult to manage, reach out to the Grand County Weed Department (435-259-1369) to discuss options.

RAVENNA GRASS *Retreatment*

1. For **resprouts**: Pull

Why we recommend it
This treatment method is effective at removing resprouts before they become too big.

Timing
Any time of year. Ideally, check area of removed plant several times per year for resprouts.

Materials
Spade, shovel, or digging instrument. Bag for disposing of resprouts.

Instructions

1. Dig out or pull resprout, taking care to remove all root fragments and seedheads.
2. Dispose of plant in a bag or secure container.
3. If a retreatment requires the use of herbicide or becomes difficult to manage, reach out to the Grand County Weed Department (435-259-1369) to discuss options.

Ravenna resprouts.