

Andropogon virginicus

COMMON NAME

broomsedge

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Andropogon virginicus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

ANDVIR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, coarse, brownish, tufted perennial 30–100 cm tall. **Roots** densely fibrous. **Stems** solid, slender to stout, slightly flattened, several per tuft, upper part branched. **Leaves** green or bluish-green, narrow, 15–30 cm long, flat or folded, hairy near base above and on ligule. **Sheaths** compressed, keeled, enfolding each other. **Seedhead** long and narrow, with paired racemes of 2–4 clusters, each 10–45 mm long with prominent tufts of white hairs enclosed by reddish-brown leaves. **Seed** 3 mm long, brown, bearded.

SIMILAR TAXA

The solid stems and long narrow seedhead make broomsedge distinctive in New Zealand.

YEAR NATURALISED

1976

ORIGIN

North and Central America, West Indies

Reason For Introduction

Accidental

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial

Seed

Seeds about 3mm long, brown bearded (Wax, Fawcett, Isley eds. 1981).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R.O., Champion, R. and de Lange, P.J. 1996. *Andropogon virginicus* and *Stipa tenuissima*. Auckland Botanical Society Journal 51: 31–33.

Wax LM, Fawcett RS, Isley D (eds). 1981. Weeds of the North Central States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agriculture, Illinois, USA. 303 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/andropogon-virginicus/>



Andropogon virginicus. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.