

Aristea ecklonii

COMMON NAME

aristea

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Aristea ecklonii Baker

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

ARIECK

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Shrubland, open and disturbed forest (esp Kauri) herbfields, bush margins, gumland, coastline, rocky and bare land, especially in warm areas.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, iris-like perennial to 45 cm tall. Rhizomes woody, leaves linear, to 40 x 1 cm, sword-shaped, folded in reddish-purple-based fans, mostly basal but few on the stem. Stem flattened, slightly winged. Flowers 2 cm diameter, deep blue, in many clusters of 5-7 loose panicles, very fragile, opening briefly in bright sunlight. Seed capsule 2 cm long, grooved; seeds flat, dark red-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

The small 3-petalled blue flowers on this iris-like plant are quite distinctive.

FLOWERING

October

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by seed; spread by people, wind and water.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

trop & S Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental



Dune hollow, Whitiau Scientific Reserve, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 02/11/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Green capsules, garden, Puriri St, Hawera. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 22/12/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristea-ecklonii/>