Agrostis stolonifera

COMMON NAMES
creeping bent

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Grasses

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
A sprawling mat-forming grass with creeping stems, sometimes submerged in fast-flowing water, with fine many-branched flowerheads, either open or narrow depending on flowering stage.

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Sprawling stoloniferous, rooting at the nodes, mat or turf forming grass, 30–60–(100) cm tall. Can be submerged in clear fast-flowring streams/rivers. **Leaf-blade** 1–20 cm long and 1–8 mm wide with an acute tip. **Ligule** 2–6 mm long, membranous. **Flower heads** usually upright or bending upwards in a many-flowered open or contracted panicle 3–28 × 0.5–2.5–(6) cm.

SIMILAR TAXA
There are several similar sprawling wetland/aquatic grasses. *Paspalum distichum* has a shorter ligule and paired flower heads, *Glyceria* species have a boat-shaped leaf tip and cross-veins on the leaf sheath and *Alopecuris geniculatus* is often acutely bent at the nodes and has a spike-like flower head.

DISTRIBUTION
Common throughout.

HABITAT
Wide variety of wetland and aquatic habitats, also in drier habitats including roadsides, wasteland, grassland and open scrub. Lowland to subalpine.

GENUS
Agrostis

FAMILY
Poaceae

AUTHORITY
Agrostis stolonifera L.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No



Agrostis stolonifera. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
Spring and summer

FRUITING
Summer to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
1878

ORIGIN
Europe, temperate Asia, N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Pasture species.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Seed and stolons dispersed by water and contaminated machinery.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACW: Facultative Wetland
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

NVS CODE
AGRSTO

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.
Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication. https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf
Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

ATTRIBUTION
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-stolonifera/

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