

Aristea ecklonii

COMMON NAMES

aristea

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue

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.

HABITAT

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

GENUS

Aristea

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Aristea ecklonii Baker

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October

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.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

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](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

ARIECK

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026