

Asphodelus fistulosus

COMMON NAME

asphodel

FAMILY

Asphodelaceae

AUTHORITY

Asphodelus fistulosus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

ASPFIS

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Usually coastal areas.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short-lived perennial herb up to about 60 cm with fleshy-fibrous roots. Leaves are linear up to 25 cm by 4 mm, and densely tufted. White or pale pink flowers are held in racemes to about 20 cm, each petal has conspicuous green or purple mid-vein. Black seeds to about 3.5 mm are held in 5 x 5 mm capsules.

SIMILAR TAXA

There are several species of *Asphodelus* cultivated in New Zealand, but *A. fistulosus* is the only one known to be naturalised.

FLOWERING

July, August, September

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

September, October, November, December

YEAR NATURALISED

1869

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

ETYMOLOGY

asphodelus: Possibly derived from the Greek a- 'without' and sphallo 'to supplant', the beautiful flowers not easily surpassed.

fistulosus: From the Latin fistula 'pipe', referring to a cylindrical or terete shape which is closed at each end



Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Spreads from seeds and some vegetative spread.

Seed

seed is produced

Tolerances

Tolerates very dry conditions in coastal areas

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asphodelus-fistulosus/>