

# Avena fatua

## COMMON NAMES

wild oat

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Root system extensive and fibrous. Stems smooth, stout, 0.3–1.2 m high. Leaves 7.5–20cm long, resembling those of tame oats. Spikelets distinguished by long dark awns, the lower part twisted, the upper parts bent sharply at right angles to twisted parts. (Wax, Fawcett, Isley eds. 1981).

## GENUS

Avena

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Avena fatua* L.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1872

## ORIGIN

Eurasia and N. Africa

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by seed. Seeds vary from white to yellow, brown, grey, or black; are usually hairy, especially near base.

## ETYMOLOGY

**avena**: Ancient Latin name for oats.

## NVS CODE

AVEFAT

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/avena-fatua/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



Rotorua. Dec 2007. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Spikelets. Wanganui. Jan 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.