

# Calamagrostis epigejos

## COMMON NAMES

wood small-reed, bushgrass

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Robust, tall plant (50–200 cm) grass arising from stout rhizomes; stem (culm) bases with adventitious roots; leaves to 10 mm wide, flat with strong ribs, rough, glabrous. Inflorescences (panicles) dense, yellowish-brown when seed is ripe, 15–30 cm long. One flower per spikelet; seeds with long straight hairs from base of lemmas. Appears to be late flowering in NZ—seed heads not seen until March–April.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

## DISTRIBUTION

Collected on Raoul Island (1944) but not seen there in recent years; one mainland NZ site (first collected 1992, still present 2017), near Palmerston North.

## HABITAT

Near Palmerston North among ungrazed rank grasses on road edge.

## GENUS

Calamagrostis

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Calamagrostis epigejos (L.) Roth

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ETYMOLOGY

**calamagrostis:** After Kalamos, a Greek mythical figure who was turned into a reed, and agrostis, a Greek word for 'grass' from agrotēs 'of the field'.

**epigejos:** From the Greek prefix epi- 'upon' and ge 'earth'. Refers to a terrestrial habitat in contrast to related species growing in swamps.

## NVS CODE

CALEPI

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calamagrostis-epigejos/>

## PDF DATE



Milson Line, Palmerston North; road edge.  
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken:  
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Inflorescence; ex-Milson Line, Palmerston  
North; road edge. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle,  
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