

# Carex flacca

## COMMON NAME

carnation sedge

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Carex flacca Schreb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARFLC

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Usually in wetlands and often invasive in poorly drained pasture or pasture bordering wetlands. Tolerant of heavy shade and full sun. Often favouring soils overlying calcareous or other base-rich substrates.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather stiff blue-green tufted sedge forming extensive patches. **Rhizome** widely creeping. **Stems** 100–600 mm high,  $\pm$  terete to  $\pm$  3-angled, smooth. **Leaves** 2–3 mm wide,  $<$  stems, double-folded to  $\pm$  flat, stiff, often curved, rather harshly scabrid; sheaths dark brown, often bright red-tinged. **Inflorescence** 50–100 mm long, of 4–6 dark brown, pedunculate spikes, terminal 1–3 male, rest female, often a remote lowermost spike on an extremely long peduncle from near base of stem; subtending bracts leaf-like,  $\pm$  = or  $>$  inflorescence. **Male spikes**  $\pm$  30.0  $\times$  1.5 mm; glumes narrow, obtuse, dark brown with lighter brown midrib not reaching tip of glume. **Female spikes** 20–45  $\times$   $\pm$  4 mm, often male at top; glumes  $<$  utricles, oblong-ovate, subobtuse, dark purple-brown with broad, lighter green to brown midrib. **Utricles**  $\pm$  2.0–2.5  $\times$  1.5 mm, obovoid to  $\pm$  orbicular, often inflated, papillose, red-tinged throughout or green with red patches, beak minute, orifice truncate, dark red. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** ellipsoid, trigonous.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The widely creeping, long rhizomatous habit, blue-green (glaucous) glabrous leaves and dark-purple brown glumes with a distinctly lighter brown midrib are diagnostic of this species.

## FLOWERING

Late spring

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green



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## FRUITING

summer

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Seed and rhizomes dispersed by contaminated machinery or garden discards.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1883

## ORIGIN

Europe, North Asia, North Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## ETYMOLOGY

**carex**: Latin name for a species of sedge, now applied to the whole group.

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication.

<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

Healy AJ, Edgar E. 1980. Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 220 p.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-flacca/>