

# Carex longebrachiata

## COMMON NAMES

Australian sedge

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, harsh, dense tussocks 30–90 cm high. New leaves grow from the inside of leaf-sheath. **Leaves** 3–5 mm wide, strongly keeled, Y-shaped in cross-section, appearing yellowish towards ends. **Seeding stem** a drooping panicle; with green to pale brown seeds hanging at the ends of long, thin, cotton-like filaments.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from almost all other species of *Carex* in NZ by its tillering and distinctive flower/seed head, but shares these characters with the Australian *C. iynx*. Flowers are grouped in catkin like spikes and hang at the end of long thin nodding stalks.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grasslands

## GENUS

Carex

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex longebrachiata* Boeckeler

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1906

## ORIGIN

Australia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

## TOLERANCES

Tolerant to low soil fertility and drought.



In cultivation. Dec 1994. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Reproduces by tillers and seed. The plant seeds prolifically, with longevity of viable seed being between 3–5 years. The seed is dispersed by gravity and livestock. The seed is relatively heavy and most falls within 30 cm from the edge of the plant's canopy.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## 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](#).

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to indigenous and naturalised Carex in New Zealand](#)

## NVS CODE

CARLON

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026