Carex lurida

COMMON NAME
Sallow sedge

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
Carex lurida Wahlenb.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not assessed

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Grass-like bright green, clump-forming plant, up to 90 cm tall, with large green spiky catkins (up to 4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide).

DISTRIBUTION
Scattered and locally common in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Tasman and Westland.

HABITAT
Lowland swamps, roadside drains.

FEATURES
Dense clumps up to 90 cm tall. Stems stout, erect, 3-angled, smooth or slightly scabrid on angles below inflorescence. Leaves 5-8 mm wide, ± = stems, flat, many small internal septa noticeable when dry; sheaths red to almost black. Inflorescence of large approximate spikes each with long leaf-like bract. Male spike 1, 5-6 cm × 2 mm, peduncle short; glumes narrow with long scabrid awns. Female spikes usually 3, upper sessile, rest shortly pedunculate, 2-4 × ± 1.5 cm, glumes much < utricles except at base of spike, narrow, hyaline, with an extremely long awn. Utricles 6-9 × 2-4 mm, strongly inflated, distinctly nerved, shining, smooth, greenish-brown, beak very narrow, bifid, c. ½ length of utricle. Stigmas 3. Nut trigonous, obovate, style strongly curved above base.

SIMILAR TAXA
Superficially similar to the native Carex maorica, differing in the more yellow-green foliage, longer and narrower (up to 6 x 1 cm) female spikes with shorter beaks. The leaf-like bracts on the flowering spikes help identify Carex lurida.

FLOWERING
Late spring to early summer

FLOWER COLOURS
Green

FRUITING
Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE
Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery or waterfowl.
YEAR NATURALISED
1945

ORIGIN
North America

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.

ATRIBUTION
Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING


MORE INFORMATION