

# Carex vulpinoidea

## COMMON NAMES

fox sedge

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Dense yellow-green grass-like clumps, up to 80 cm tall, leaves and stems harsh to the touch, with distinctive green to orange-brown 'bird-seed' millet like heads.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense stiff clumps, 50–80 cm tall. **Stems** firm, erect, sharply 3-angled, harshly scabrid on angles just below inflorescence. **Leaves** usually > stems, 2–5 mm wide, ± flat, strongly scabrid; sheaths long, membranous, transversely-rugulose for 2–4 cm below mouth. **Inflorescence** a very dense, ± cylindrical, ± lobed, spiciform panicle 6–10 × ± 1 cm, green to light brown. **Spikes** numerous, sessile, very crowded above, lower ones more distant with setaceous bracts < inflorescence, male flowers at top of spikes, female flowers densely crowded. **Glumes** much < utricles, ovate with far excurrent midrib. **Utricles** 2–2.5 × 1.5 mm, ovate, plano-convex, faintly nerved on convex face, tapering to a narrow bifid beak ± 1 mm long with sparsely scabrid margins. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** almost spherical, biconvex.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Only *Carex* with lobed bristly inflorescence.

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and locally common in Northern North Island to the central volcanic plateau, also Tasman and Westland, rare elsewhere.

## HABITAT

Wet pasture and swampy waste places.

## GENUS

Carex

## FAMILY

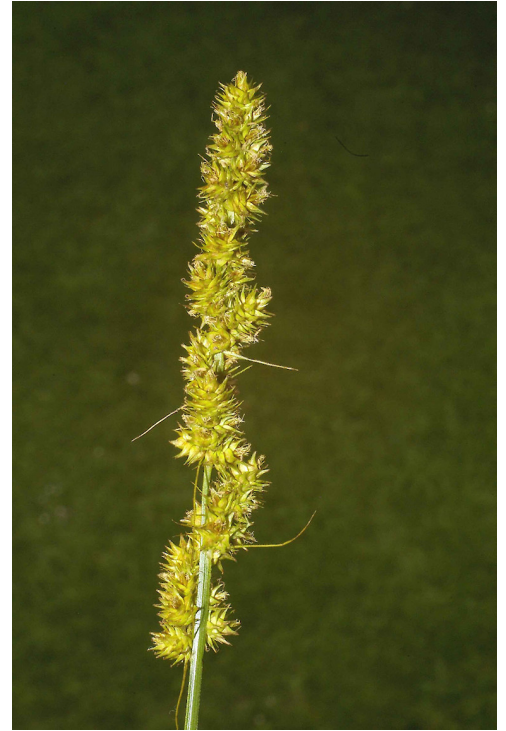
Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex vulpinoidea* Michaux

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No



*Carex vulpinoidea*. Howarth wetland, Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Carex vulpinoidea*. Howarth wetland, Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Late spring to early summer

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn

## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

North and South America

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery or waterfowl.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

CARVUL

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.

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

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

## ATTRIBUTION

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

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

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