

Cynodon dactylon

COMMON NAMES

Bermuda grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mat-forming grass to 55 cm tall, with long rhizomes and stolons. **Leaves** are held on upright culm to 50cm tall; leaf blades up to 9 cm long, 1–3mm wide (sometimes wider), grey-green, slightly hairy. **Flower head** has 3–7 branches coming out of the same point, each branch is up to 6 cm long, and has 2 rows of green or purplish spikelets.

SIMILAR TAXA

Creeping stems, branched (digitate) flower heads. Similar inflorescence to *Digitaria* species, but the foliage on *Cynodon dactylon* is more robust and stiff.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Cynodon

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1846

ORIGIN

Pantropical

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Cynodon dactylon. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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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](#).

NVS CODE

CYNDAC

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cynodon-dactylon/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026