

# Cyperus sanguinolentus

## COMMON NAMES

Louisiana flatsedge

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tufted yellow-green leafy sedge, with triangular stems up to 40 cm tall, with 1 or occasionally 2 or 3 distinctively green and purple red striped flowerheads, each made up of flattened flower spikes, with two to three grass-like leaves immediately under this, at the end of flower stalk.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted annual. **Stems** to 40 cm tall, very slender in small plants but more rigid in larger ones, 3-angled, very leafy at base. **Leaves** < stems, to 2.5 mm wide, margins smooth except near tip. **Involucral bracts** 2–3, very widely spreading, unequal, at least the lowest >, to very much > inflorescence. **Inflorescence** a single head or small umbel with few very short rays. **Spikelets** in ovoid dark clusters, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, 4–8 × 2 mm, much compressed. **Glumes** not closely imbricate, ± 2 mm long, ovate, obtuse, with broad green keel and dark red-purple patch at tip and purple band inside the green margin. **Stamens** 3 or 2. **Style-branches** 2. **Nut** ± ½ length of glume, orbicular-obovoid, biconvex, black.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to the native *Schoenus apogon*, but the dark purple lined green flattened spikelets and triangular stems distinguish *P. sanguinolentus* from this species.

## DISTRIBUTION

Restricted to Northland and Auckland.

## HABITAT

Wet pasture, margins of water bodies and drains.

## GENUS

Cyperus

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cyperus sanguinolentus* Vahl

## SYNONYMS

*Pycneus sanguinolentus* (Vahl) Nees

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



## FLOWERING

Summer to autumn

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn

## YEAR NATURALISED

1944

## ORIGIN

North Africa, Asia and Australia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, possibly ornamental plant, seed or soil contaminant.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**cyperus:** From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros

## 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.

## 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/cyperus-sanguinolentus/>

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