

Dactylis glomerata

COMMON NAME

cocksfoot

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Dactylis glomerata L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

DACGLO

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal, lowland, montane and subalpine habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in scrub and forest margin, shrubland, tussockland, herbfields, fernland, sand dune hollows and riverbeds (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

FEATURES

Hairless, erect, greyish to bluish green, strongly tufted perennial grass to 1 m tall. Roots fibrous. Emerging leaf folded; ligule 2-12 mm long, membranous, often torn; sheath strongly flattened, sharply keeled. Leaves 100-450 x 2-14 mm, rough towards boat-shaped tip, harsh when old, dull beneath with prominent sharp keel. Seedhead a large panicle, with one-sided clusters of flattened spikelets. Seeds with bristly ends.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinctive large panicle, with one-sided clusters when mature. May be confused with *Poa annua* when young but sheath base is flattened in *D. glomerata* but not in *Poa annua*.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by tillars and seed. Seed is dispersed by wind, water, humans and vertebrates (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

Eurasia, Nth Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

TOLERANCES

The plant is slightly tolerant to drought, shade and poor drainage and is frost tolerant (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant is able to resprout after physical damage and fire (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

ETYMOLOGY

dactylis: From the Greek dacktyolos 'a finger', referring to the shape of the panicle



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dactylis-glomerata/>