

Ehrharta erecta

COMMON NAMES

veldt grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, tufted perennial grass to 60 cm tall. **Leaves** pale green, soft, broad, shortly hairy, often dying back in summer drought. **Sheaths** short. **Seedhead** an open, erect, 10–40 cm long, ragged panicle of narrow spikes.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *E. longiflora*, but the upper lemma of *E. erecta* is hairless, wrinkled and has no awn.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in sites of low fertility (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of sand dunes, cliffs and bluff communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

GENUS

Ehrharta

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Ehrharta erecta Lam.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

YEAR NATURALISED

1944

ORIGIN

Sth Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Wanganui. Nov 2008. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescence. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/11/2006, Licence: CC BY.

TOLERANCES

The plant is drought and shade tolerant and very tolerant to shade (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Requires low soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Vegetative reproduction occurs and seed is produced in large quantities all year round (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seed dispersal is by wind, water and bird.

ETYMOLOGY

erecta: Erect

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

EHRERE

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Atkinson IAE. 1997. Problem weeds on New Zealand islands. *Science for Conservation 45*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 58 p.

Ogle, C.C. 1988. Veld grass *Ehrharta erecta* has come to stay. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin 44*: 8–15.

Timmins SM, Mackenzie IW. 1995. Weeds in New Zealand Protected Natural Areas database. *Department of Conservation Technical Series 8*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 282 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ehrharta-erecta/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026