

Elytrigia pycnantha

COMMON NAME

Sea couch

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Elytrigia pycnantha (Godr.)

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

ELYPYC

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal on foreshore waste land, consolidated sand near dunes, mudflats and roadsides.

FEATURES

Bluish grey, tufted, rigid perennial grass to about 125 cm tall. Can form large patches from strongly spreading wiry rhizomes. Leaves glaucous, up to 25 cm long, usually rolled, occasionally flat and up to 7 mm wide, greyish to light brown. Leaves held on erect culms to 25-75 cm tall. Erect spike 5-20 cm tall with spikelets very close-set.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from *E. repens* (couch) by the tightly inrolled leaves, and leaves that are rough to the touch.

YEAR NATURALISED

1968

ORIGIN

Western and Southern Europe

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Reproduction

Vegetative spread from long running rhizomes. Seed is also produced.

Tolerances

Tolerates salt and very poor soils.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/elytrigia-pycnantha/>



Newdicks Beach, Maketu. Apr 2008.
Photographer: Matt Renner



Manawatu Estuary. May 2008. Photographer:
Colin Ogle