Equisetum fluviatile

COMMON NAMES
water horsetail

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

FLOWER COLOURS
No flowers

GENUS
Equisetum

FAMILY
Equisetaceae

AUTHORITY
Equisetum fluviatile L.

YEAR NATURALISED
1988

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Reproduces by spores and rhizomes; dispersed by wind and vegetative spread by water and as accidental pot contaminants

ETYMOLOGY
equisetum: From the Latin equus 'horse' and setum 'bristle', the barren growths resembling horses' tails.
fluviatile: Growing by water; from the Latin fluvius

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES
This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the MPI website.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/equisetum-fluviatile/

PDF DATE
27 May 2026