

# Equisetum hyemale

## COMMON NAME

Rough horsetail

## FAMILY

Equisetaceae

## AUTHORITY

Equisetum hyemale L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## FEATURES

A plant with erect stems arising from rapidly spreading underground rhizomes. Stems unbranched or very sparsely branched, and the central 2/3 diameter of stem hollow. Stem ridges with 2 rows of tubercles, sheath with black bands at top and bottom. When fertile, apiculate (on flexible stalks) cones produced on the green stems.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to Equisetum arvense but unbranched or very sparsely branched, and, when fertile, with cones produced on the green stems, not on separate brown stems. Also distinguished by the central hollow 2/3 diameter of stem, stem ridges with 2 rows of tubercles, sheath with black bands at top and bottom, and cone apiculate. (Webb et al 1995).

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## YEAR NATURALISED

1993

## ORIGIN

Europe, Asia, N. America

## ETYMOLOGY

**equisetum:** From the Latin equus 'horse' and setum 'bristle', the barren growths resembling horses' tails.

## Life Cycle Comments

Rhizomes to 1m underground. Toxic to stock. Aggressive and almost impossible to eradicate. being sold and given away as a medicinal herb. Slender asparagus-like spear with black rings. (Melanie Newfield, 1996). Major potential weed.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/equisetum-hyemale/>

