

# Eragrostis curvula

## COMMON NAMES

African love grass

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Variable, densely tufted, tussock-like, erect or prostrate perennial grass to 1–1.5 m tall. Deciduous in cold areas. **Roots** fibrous, up to 50 cm deep. **Leaves** narrow and hair-like, 3–7 mm wide, rolled inwards, rough, bright green to bluegreen (blushes bronze-red after hard frost), usually curly at tips. **Seedheads** usually loose, airy panicles (occ compressed), 6–30 × 4–20 cm, with tufts of white hair on lower axils. **Seeds** blackish olive-purple (ripening greyish); on arching stems to 1 m long, summer. Several vars. in NZ, harshness and palatability varies widely.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A vigorous densely tufted, perennial grass up to 1.5 m tall. Bright blue-green leaves that are harsh to the touch. The flower heads are more open than most other large grasses in NZ and are slightly pyramid shaped. The only grass in NZ with blackish seeds and curly leaf tips.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Dry steep sites, short and tall tussock grassland, coastal areas, riverbeds, cliffs, herbfields. Can be dispersed short distances by wind.

## GENUS

Eragrostis

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Eragrostis curvula* (Schrad.) Nees

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November–December

## YEAR NATURALISED

1969

## ORIGIN

Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



*Eragrostis curvula*. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.



Karikari Peninsula. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 21/02/2011, Licence: CC BY.

## TOLERANCES

Is found mostly in drier areas.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Seed and vegetative spread. Produces many seeds.

## ETYMOLOGY

**eragrostis:** From the Greek eros 'love' and agrostis 'grass'

## 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](#).

## 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

ERACUR

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/eragrostis-curvula/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026