

Festuca rubra subsp. rubra

COMMON NAME

red fescue

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Festuca rubra L. subsp. *rubra*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

FESRSR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

FEATURES

Tufted perennial grass spreading from rhizomes. Leaves arise from the base and have sheath 3–7 cm, often with bright red veins, and an almost glabrous blade of 5–25 cm long and 0.5–2 mm wide, dark to bluish green. Knob-like swellings at junction of blade and sheath. Flowering culm up to 45 cm tall, panicle usually 5–10 cm tall, closely held clusters of spikelets.

SIMILAR TAXA

F. novae-zealandae is similar but has more wiry leaf blades up to 60 cm long.

YEAR NATURALISED

1872

ORIGIN

Europe

ETYMOLOGY

festuca: From the Latin *festuca* 'stem' or 'blade of grass'

rubra: Red

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/festuca-rubra-subsp-rubra/>



Festuca rubra subsp. *rubra*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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