

# 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).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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/>



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