

Glyceria declinata

COMMON NAME

blue sweet grass, glaucous sweet grass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Glyceria declinata Bréb.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

GLYDEC

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Aquatic perennial emergent grass found in and on the margins of freshwaters, on damp ground and swamps. It is characterised by its grey/green leaf blades, and ability to form loose floating mats in shallow water.

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout New Zealand, including Stewart Island and Chathams.

HABITAT

Aquatic in drains and other slow flowing water bodies. Damp ground in swamps and pastures, drains and river banks.

FEATURES

Perennial marginal aquatic grass with rather flaccid culms (15)-25-45 cm. Leaf blade (4)-8-17 cm, folded at first then becoming flat. Panicle 20-30-(40)cm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *Glyceria fluitans*. These two species can be distinguished when flowering as *G. declinata* has 3-5 distinct teeth on the lemma apex and the palea teeth exceed the lemma apex. *G. fluitans* has a rounded lemma and the palea does not exceed the lemma. *G. maxima* is a taller species, which has a distinct pointed ligule.

FLOWERING

Spring/summer.

FRUITING

late spring-autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Seed and vegetative fragment spread by water movement. Seed is produced but is probably not viable for more than one season.

YEAR NATURALISED

1969

ORIGIN

Europe and North America



Leaf-sheath. Eastern Wairarapa (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright).
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Spikelet. Eastern Wairarapa (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Pasture species, or contamination of other grass seed.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

TOLERANCES

Can tolerate very damp ground, or swampy conditions.

ETYMOLOGY

glyceria: From the Greek glykos 'sweet'.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common grasses, sedges and rushes of New Zealand. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 182pp.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/glyceria-declinata/>