

Imperata cylindrica var. major

COMMON NAMES

Cogon grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tropical grass forming loose or compact tufts to about 1 m. Colonies establish from long-creeping, tough, scaly rhizomes about 3 mm diameter. **Leaves** held on upright culm 20–50 cm tall. **Leaf-sheath** light brown, sometimes purplish, glabrous or with scattered fine hairs above, shredding into stiff fibres at maturity. **Leaf-blade** to 1 m x 4–10 mm, glabrous with rough margins. **Panicle** 9–15 x c. 2 cm, a dense silky white spike. **Seed** not seen in New Zealand.

SIMILAR TAXA

I. cylindrica is distinguished from *I. cheesmanii* by the dense flowering spike (*cylindrica*).

HABITAT

Terrestrial open places, sunny places on hills, flats on volcanic soil near coast.

GENUS

Imperata

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Imperata cylindrica var. *major* (Nees) C.E.Hubb.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1911

ORIGIN

Tropical/warm temperate Asia, Australia, New Caledonia, Eastern Africa, Lord Howe Island.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Can form dense swards (Lisa Forester 1996). Vegetative spread by long branched rhizomes.

ETYMOLOGY

cylindrica: From the Latin *cylindricus* 'cylindrical, having nearly a true cylindrical form

major: Greater



MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/imperata-cylindrica-var-major/>

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