

Leymus racemosus

COMMON NAMES

Siberian lyme grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial grass with stout rhizomes and very robust tufts to 150 cm. **Culm** stout and erect 50–110 cm tall. **Leaf-sheath** yellowish and almost glabrous. **Leaf-blade** 10–65 cm × 4.5–16 mm, strongly ribbed and almost glabrous. **Flowering spike** 25–40 cm stiff erect and tapered. **Seed** 6.5 × 2 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from *L. arenarius* by the spikelets in clusters of 3–5, and the glumes without any hairs.

HABITAT

Terrestrial: coastal dunes, foreshore, sandy places and waste land.

GENUS

Leymus

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Leymus racemosus (Lam.) Tzvelev

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1895

ORIGIN

Eurasia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by seed and rhizomes. Dispersed by wind.

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

LEYRAC

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leymus-racemosus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026