

Lolium arundinaceum subsp. arundinaceum

COMMON NAMES

tall fescue

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall, erect, strongly tufted, coarse, perennial grass. **Leaves** 100–600 × 3–12 mm, flat, mod ribbed, harsh, yellow-green, hairless except at leaf base, margins rough, glossy beneath; rolled when emerging. **Leaf-base** stout, encircles stem with collar, hairy. **Sheath-base** occ brownish-purple. **Ligule** up to 2 mm long, membranous, firm, greenish. **Seedhead** an open panicle, 5–25 cm long; seeds large, clustered in coarse spikelets 10–20 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Tall, erect, fairly harsh, perennial grass. Auricle with very short bristly hairs, that continue along the margins at the base of the leaf blade. Otherwise the plant is glabrous. Hybrids are produced with both *Lolium perenne* and *L. multiflorum*. *Lolium* species are lush grasses and do not have hairy auricles.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Lolium

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Lolium arundinaceum (Schreb.) Darbysh. subsp. *arundinaceum*

SYNONYMS

Schedonorus phoenix (Scop.) Holub [1998], *Festuca arundinacea* Schreb., *Schedonorus arundinaceus* (Schreb.) Dumort.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1871



Schedonorus arundinaceus. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Schedonorus arundinaceus. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

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

SCHARU

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lolium-arundinaceum-subsp-arundinaceum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026