

# Lolium perenne

## COMMON NAME

perennial rye grass

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Lolium perenne* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

LOLPER

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Roadsides and tracks, pasture, river flats and banks, waste land and sand dunes, lowland to montane

## FEATURES

Loosely tufted, dark green, hairless, perennial grass. Leaves soft, thin, 30-200 x 2-6 mm, regularly ribbed above, very glossy and smooth beneath, joined to stem with small collar. Leaf sheath reddish-purplish at base; inner sheath smooth, pale green; emerging leaf folded. Ligule up to 2 mm long, membranous, light green. Seedhead distinctive, erect, thin, flattened, slightly zigzagged; with seeds in small clusters arranged alternately.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The seedhead is distinctive with flattened and slightly zig-zag form.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1855

## ORIGIN

Eur, temp Asia, N Afr

## Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

## Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

## Reproduction

Seed

## Tolerances

Tolerates wet to dryish soils, high to moderate fertility, can re-sprout after damage and grazing, tolerates warm to cold temperatures.

## MORE INFORMATION

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



*Lolium perenne*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



*Lolium perenne*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth