

Miscanthus nepalensis

COMMON NAMES

Himalayan fairy grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall tufted perennial grass to about 1 m tall. **Culm** 40–80 cm, purple-green to yellow-green with purplish nodes. **Leaf-sheath** often conspicuously purple, with scattered long silky hairs. **Leaf-blade** 20–60 cm × 4–10 mm, stiff with obvious pale green mid-rib, gradually tapering, margins rough to the touch. **Panicle** 10–20 cm, golden brown, drooping fan-shaped. **Seed** 1–1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

The drooping fan-shaped panicle is quite distinctive. *M. sinensis* is also cultivated and naturalised. *M. sinensis* has a creamy-brown inflorescence, is larger (to over 2 m) and a form with variegated foliage is widely grown.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Waste areas, spreading from roadsides.

GENUS

Miscanthus

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Miscanthus nepalensis (Trin.) Hack.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1946

ORIGIN

Nepal/India

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial.



Miscanthus nepalensis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Miscanthus nepalensis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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

MISNEP

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/miscanthus-nepalensis/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026