

# Phragmites karka

## COMMON NAMES

common reed

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

.Perennial rhizomatous grass, deciduous in winter

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Phragmites australis*

## HABITAT

(In NZ), recorded from estuaries and wet grassland.

## GENUS

Phragmites

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Phragmites karka (Retz.) Trin. ex Steud.

## SYNONYMS

Many authors include *P. karka* in *P. australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud., and the two reportedly hybridise where their natural ranges overlap, e.g. Pakistan. *Arundo karka* Retz.;  
*Arundo roxburghii* Kunth;  
*Phragmites maxima* (Forssk.) Blatter & McCann;  
*Phragmites nepalensis* Nees ex Steud.;  
*Phragmites roxburghii* (Kunth) Steud.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

2006 (first confirmed record in NZ)

## ORIGIN

Africa, India, New Guinea and northern Australia (FAO website).

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

unknown



Kitchener Park, Feilding. Showing collar-ligule area at top of sheath, for *Phragmites karka* (on right) and *Arundo donax* (on left - plant from a Whanganui garden). Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 28/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kitchener Park, Feilding. Rhizome excavated and left on surface - sprouts 4 months later. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 28/01/2021, 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](#).

## ATTRIBUTION

Page created by C C Ogle March 2015

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/phragmites-karka/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026