

Saccharum officinarum

COMMON NAMES

sugar cane

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

HABITAT

Sporadic weed—often on the margins of legal and illegal rubbish dumps, or found established at the base of garden refuse dumps bordering forest, mangrove swamps and gullies in northern New Zealand.

GENUS

Saccharum

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Saccharum officinarum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Rarely seen in New Zealand

FRUITING

Never seen in New Zealand

YEAR NATURALISED

1989

ORIGIN

Tropics—an ancient cultigen derived from past hybridism

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental and Cultural

TOLERANCES

Cold intolerant. Flourishes in open, damp, humid conditions. Tolerant of brackish water.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Disposal Method

Dig up and burn

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Long-lived perennial grass. Reproduction is exclusively vegetative through disassociation of rhizomes. No seed is produced in New Zealand (rarely throughout the world). Dispersed by dumping garden waste and rubbish.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/saccharum-officinarum/>

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25 May 2026