

Spartina alterniflora

COMMON NAME

American spartina

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Spartina alterniflora Loisel.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

SPAALT

HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent. Saline. Estuaries, mangroves and other intertidal zones with soft sediment.

FEATURES

Robust perennial clump forming grass to 1m with thick fleshy, far-creeping rhizomes, forming open clumps. Culm erect, 8-30mm diam. near base, incl. closely ensheathing leaves. leaves 8-45cm x 6-15mm, persistent, coriaceous, flat, glabrous, adaxially ribbed, much narrowed to fine hard tip. Flowers rarely seen.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from other *Spartina* species by the rather open clumps, large shoots (8-30 mm diameter), occasional plants flowering, and on those that do, the spikelets is not hairy.

FLOWERING

N/A

YEAR NATURALISED

1965

ORIGIN

N. America

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial. Flowers are hardly ever seen (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

Reproduction

Vegetative reproduction from underground rhizomes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

Seed

Seed is not produced (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

Dispersal

Rhizome fragments survive digging, dropped pieces resprout.

Tolerances

The plant is intolerant to shade and drought; tolerant to poor drainage and highly tolerant of salt. Physical damage and grazing result in the resprouting of underground rhizomes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spartina-alterniflora/>

