Spartina anglica

COMMON NAMES
spartina hybrid, cordgrass

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stiff perennial grass 50–100 cm tall with fleshy rhizomes, forming large dense clumps or swards. **Leaf-blades** 5–40cm × 5–12 mm flat or inrolled, hairless and narrowed to fine hard tip. **Culm** erect, 5–8 mm diameter at base, including closely ensheathing leaves. **Inflorescence** 10–30 cm, erect.



Spartina anglica. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
Spartina anglica can be distinguished from *S. alterniflora* by its smaller stem size (5–8 mm) cf *S. alterniflora* stem 8–30 mm, and from *S. ×townsendii* by the presence of fertile seed (seed is aborted in *S. ×townsendii*)

HABITAT
Aquatic: Emergent. Estuaries, mangroves and other intertidal areas with soft sediment.

GENUS
Spartina

FAMILY
Poaceae

AUTHORITY
Spartina anglica C.E.Hubb.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

YEAR NATURALISED
1981

ORIGIN
England

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Agricultural

TOLERANCES
Tolerates very saline conditions. Can survive burying.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Perennial. Reproduces from seed and rhizome spreading and fragments. Seed is dispersed by wind and water. Livestock, propellers nets etc dislodge rhizome fragments, tidal and current movement, intentional planting. Rhizomes can survive long time at sea, moves long distances.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

NVS CODE

SPAANG

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spartina-anglica/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026