

Spartina anglica

COMMON NAME

Spartina hybrid, cordgrass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Spartina anglica C.E.Hubb.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

SPAANG

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

HABITAT

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

FEATURES

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

SIMILAR TAXA

Spartina anglica can be distinguished from *S. alterniflora* by its smaller stem size (5-8mm) (*S. alterniflora* stem 8-30 mm). And from *S. x townsendii* by the presence of fertile seed (seed is aborted in *S. x townsendii*)

LIFE CYCLE

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.

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

England

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

TOLERANCES

Tolerates very saline conditions. Can survive burying.

MORE INFORMATION

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



Spartina anglica. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth