

# 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

## 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