

# Spartina ×townsendii

## COMMON NAME

spartina

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Spartina ×townsendii* H.Grives et J.Groves

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent. Saline.

## FEATURES

Stiff perennial grass 10-50cm tall, with fleshy rhizomes forming dense clumps or swards. Leaf blade 5-35cm x4-10mm, flat or inrolled, hairless and narrowed to fine hard tip. Culm erect, 3-8mm diam. near base incl. closely ensheathing leaves. Inflorescence 8-30cm, erect, seed always aborted.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from *S. alterniflora* by the smaller culm (3-8 mm). and from *S. anglica* by its generally smaller size, (10-50 cm) and aborted pollen and seed (*S. anglica* is 50-100 cm tall and has viable seed).

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Does not set seed, reproduces entirely by rhizomes. *S. xtownsendii* is sterile and does not set seed. Dispersed by livestock, propellers, nets etc dislodge rhizome fragments, tidal and current movement, intentional planting. Can survive long-tem at sea, moves long distances.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1924

## ORIGIN

England

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Perennial

## TOLERANCES

Can tolerate extreme saline conditions.

## MORE INFORMATION

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

