

Stenotaphrum secundatum

COMMON NAME

buffalo grass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Stenotaphrum secundatum (Walter) Kuntze

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

STESEC

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Light demanding (West, 1996). On Raoul this grass is found on coastal areas and occasionally young plants are found along tracks through the forest and even in the wet forest (West, 1996). Smothers coastal areas (Cameron 1996).

FEATURES

Dense, mat-forming, coarse perennial grass. Stolons stout, long, usually reddish, occ with thin rhizomes. Leaves alternate, 40-100 x 4-12 mm, dull greyish to bluish green, flattened strap-like, tip hooded which splits when flattened, blades folded at base, ligule a tiny fringe, auricles missing. Sheath large, broad, with fine green and white stripes, usually has reddish tinge, with 3-4 mm hairs at blade junction. Seedhead rigid, flattened, brittle spike; seeds usually aligned to one side.

SIMILAR TAXA

Smothering growth form is similar to kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*). The distinctive flattened seedhead, easily separates buffalo grass from all other species..

YEAR NATURALISED

1872

ORIGIN

Tropical America and Africa

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

Reproduction

Most spread is by stolon fragments, occasionally by seed.

Dispersal

Seeds are mostly dispersed over short distances by wind and over larger distances carried on animals (fur, feathers) and by human activity (West, 1996).

Tolerances

Tolerant of salt spray (West, 1996).

MORE INFORMATION



Riversdale. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Castlepoint Scenic Reserve. Photographer: John Sawyer

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/stenotaphrum-secundatum/>