

# Stenotaphrum secundatum

## COMMON NAME

buffalo grass

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Walter) Kuntze

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

STESEC

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## 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).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense, mat-forming, coarse perennial grass. **Stolons** stout, long, usually reddish, occasionally with thin rhizomes. **Leaves** alternate, 40–100 × 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 (*Cenchrus clandestinus*). The distinctive flattened seedhead, easily separates buffalo grass from all other species.

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Most spread is by stolon fragments, occasionally by seed. Seeds are mostly dispersed over short distances by wind and over larger distances carried on animals (fur, feathers) and by human activity (West, 1996).

## YEAR NATURALISED

1872

## ORIGIN

Tropical America and Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

## TOLERANCES

Tolerant of salt spray (West, 1996).



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## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

West CJ. 1996. Assessment of the weed control programme on Raoul Island, Kermadec Group. *Science & Research Series No. 98*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 100 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

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