

Typha latifolia

COMMON NAMES

Great reedmace

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect shoots 0.15-0.3 m; flowering shoots 10-20 mm thick in middle, stems 3-7 mm thick near inflorescence. Leaves: usually glaucous when fresh; sheath sides papery or membranous, margins narrowly clear, summit tapered into blade to distinctly shouldered, or rarely with firm, papery auricles; mucilage glands at sheath-blade transition usually colorless, obscure, absent from sheath center and blade; widest blades on shoot 10-23(-29) mm wide when fresh, 5-20 mm when dry, distal blades about equaling inflorescence. Inflorescences: staminate spikes contiguous with pistillate or in some clones separated by to 40(-80) mm of naked axis, about as long as pistillate, c.10-20 mm thick at anthesis; staminate scales colorless to straw-colored, filiform, simple, c.4.0 x 0.05 mm; pistillate spikes in flower pale green drying brownish, later blackish brown or reddish brown, in fruit often mottled with whitish patches of pistil-hair tips, 50-250 x 5-8 mm in flower, 24-36 mm thick in fruit; compound pedicels in fruit bristle-like, variable in same spike, 1.5-3.5 mm; pistillate bracteoles absent. Staminate flowers 5-12 mm; anthers 1-3 mm, thecae yellow, apex dark brown; pollen in tetrads. Pistillate flowers 2-3 mm in flower, 10-15 mm in fruit; pistil-hair tips colorless, whitish in mass, not enlarged; stigmas persistent, forming solid layer on spike surface, pale green in flower, drying brownish, then reddish brown or usually distally blackish, spatulate, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 0.6-1.0 x 0.2-0.25 mm; carpodia exceeded by and hidden among pistil hairs, straw-colored, apex rounded. Seeds numerous. $2n = 30$.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar in appearance to native raupo (*Typha orientalis*).

HABITAT

Grows on the margins of freshwater bodies, in shallow water on a range of substrates. Not known to be established in NZ, although may be present in cultivation.

GENUS

Typha

FAMILY

Typhaceae

AUTHORITY

Typha latifolia L.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Early summer



LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial

ETYMOLOGY

typha: From the Greek name for this plant

latifolia: From the Latin *latus* meaning broad, and *folium* meaning leaf, relating to the “broad-leaved” foliage of the plant.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/typha-latifolia/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026