

Tussilago farfara

COMMON NAMES

coltsfoot

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb with stout rootstock and rhizomes. Basal leaves glabrous on upper surface, moderately to densely lanate on lower; petiole hairy, > lamina, 3~35cm long; lamina reniform to suborbicular, cordate, acute, shallowly lobed and again denticulate, 3~20cm diam.; lobes with flat or concave sides. Infl. usu. appearing before leaves, erect, 5~30cm tall; cauline leaves > 10, ovate-triangular, entire, around 1cm long. Supplementary bracts 0~2. Involucral bracts approx. 20, linear- to ovate-oblong, 9~14mm long. Ray florets numerous, ligules yellow, linear, 3~5mm long. Achenes 3~5mm long. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

A low growing perennial mat forming plant (Regional Councils n.d.). A herb with a stout rootstock and rhizomes (Webb et. al. 1988). A plant with yellow flower heads (Webb et. al. 1988; Regional Councils n.d.). The leaves of the upper aerial part of the plant are egg-shaped to triangular with shallow lobes (Webb et. al. 1988).

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Tussilago

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Tussilago farfara L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

Europe, N Africa, N&W Asia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Tussilago farfara. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial

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](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/tussilago-farfara/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026