

Miscanthus nepalensis

COMMON NAME

Himalayan fairy grass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Miscanthus nepalensis (Trin.) Hack.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

MISNEP

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Waste areas, spreading from roadsides.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall tufted perennial grass to about 1 m tall. **Culm** 40–80 cm, purple-green to yellow-green with purplish nodes. **Leaf-sheath** often conspicuously purple, with scattered long silky hairs. **Leaf-blade** 20–60 cm × 4–10 mm, stiff with obvious pale green mid-rib, gradually tapering, margins rough to the touch. **Panicle** 10–20 cm, golden brown, drooping fan-shaped. **Seed** 1–1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

The drooping fan-shaped panicle is quite distinctive. *M. sinensis* is also cultivated and naturalised. *M. sinensis* has a creamy-brown inflorescence, is larger (to over 2 m) and a form with variegated foliage is widely grown.

YEAR NATURALISED

1946

ORIGIN

Nepal/India

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/miscanthus-nepalensis/>



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