

Paspalum vaginatum

COMMON NAME

saltwater paspalum

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Paspalum vaginatum Sw.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

PASVAG

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent. Found in brackish water around the margins of river mouths and estuaries.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent perennial grass with long creeping stolons. **Leaf-blade** up to 8 cm × 2 mm, rather stiff and much narrower than the sheath. **Culm** up to about 20 cm tall, panicle consisting of 2 spreading racemes.

SIMILAR TAXA

Not immediately obvious as paspalum, but close inspection reveals characteristic seed-heads. Can be separated from other paspalum species by the inflorescence of 2 racemes, the long spikelets (2.5–4.5 mm) and the upper glume glabrous (*P. distichum* has minutely appressed pubescence on upper glume). It is also the most salt-tolerant so location is important for identification.

YEAR NATURALISED

1855

ORIGIN

Europe

ETYMOLOGY

paspalum: The Greek name for millet



Paspalum vaginatum. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Reproduction

Spreads vegetatively by stolons and by seed.

Seed

Seeds are produced.

Dispersal

Sand movement.

Tolerances

Grows in marginal saline habitats.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/paspalum-vaginatum/>