

Carex longebrachiata

COMMON NAMES

Australian sedge

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex longebrachiata Boeckeler

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARLON

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grasslands

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, harsh, dense tussocks 30–90 cm high. New leaves grow from the inside of leaf-sheath. **Leaves** 3–5 mm wide, strongly keeled, Y-shaped in cross-section, appearing yellowish towards ends. **Seeding stem** a drooping panicle; with green to pale brown seeds hanging at the ends of long, thin, cotton-like filaments.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from almost all other species of *Carex* in NZ by its tillering and distinctive flower/seed head, but shares these characters with the Australian *C. iynx*. Flowers are grouped in catkin like spikes and hang at the end of long thin nodding stalks.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by tillers and seed. The plant seeds prolifically, with longevity of viable seed being between 3–5 years. The seed is dispersed by gravity and livestock. The seed is relatively heavy and most falls within 30 cm from the edge of the plant's canopy.

YEAR NATURALISED

1906

ORIGIN

Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

TOLERANCES

Tolerant to low soil fertility and drought.

ETYMOLOGY

carex: Latin name for a species of sedge, now applied to the whole group.



In cultivation. Dec 1994. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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/carex-longebrachiata/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024