

Carex lurida

COMMON NAMES

sallow sedge

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex lurida Wahlenb.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Grass-like bright green, clump-forming plant, up to 90 cm tall, with large green spiky catkins (up to 4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide).

DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and locally common in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Tasman and Westland.

HABITAT

Lowland swamps, roadside drains.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense clumps up to 90 cm tall. **Stems** stout, erect, 3-angled, smooth or slightly scabrid on angles below inflorescence. **Leaves** 5–8 mm wide, \pm = stems, flat, many small internal septa noticeable when dry; sheaths red to almost black. **Inflorescence** of large approximate spikes each with long leaf-like bract. **Male spike** 1, 5–6 cm \times 2 mm, peduncle short; glumes narrow with long scabrid awns. **Female spikes** usually 3, upper sessile, rest shortly pedunculate, 2–4 \times \pm 1.5 cm, glumes much < utricles except at base of spike, narrow, hyaline, with an extremely long awn. **Utricles** 6–9 \times 2–4 mm, strongly inflated, distinctly nerved, shining, smooth, greenish-brown, beak very narrow, bifid, c. $\frac{1}{2}$ length of utricle. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** trigonous, obovate, style strongly curved above base.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to the native *Carex maorica*, differing in the more yellow-green foliage, longer and narrower (up to 6 \times 1 cm) female spikes with shorter beaks. The leaf-like bracts on the flowering spikes help identify *Carex lurida*.

FLOWERING

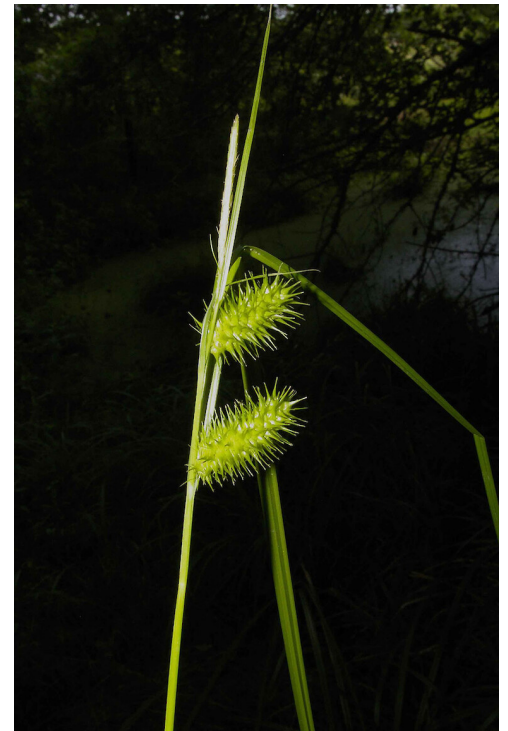
Late spring to early summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Green



Carex lurida, Howarth wetland, Te Aroha.
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Howarth wetland, Te Aroha. Photographer:
John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery or waterfowl.

YEAR NATURALISED

1945

ORIGIN

North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

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

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](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication.

<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

Healy AJ, Edgar E. 1980. Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 220 p.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-lurida/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024