Cyperus eragrostis

COMMON NAMES
umbrella sedge

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
Cyperus eragrostis Lam.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

NVS CODE
CYPERA

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Tufted leafy sedge, with triangular stems up to 90 cm tall, leaves arranged in threes, with a group of 5 to 7 green round flowerheads, each made up of broad flattened flower spikes, with 5 to 8 long grass-like leaves immediately under this, at the end of flower stalk.

DISTRIBUTION
Scattered throughout both islands, locally abundant.

HABITAT
Wet areas such as the banks of rivers and streams, swamps, ditches.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACW: Facultative Wetland
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Rhizome short, thick, woody. **Stems** 25–90 cm high, stout, obtusely trigonous, smooth, leafy and ± thickened at base. **Leaves** usually < stems, 4–8 mm wide, flat, margins finely serrate; sheaths dark purple-brown. **Involucral** bracts 5–8, leaf like, unequal, often very much > inflorescence. **Inflorescence** a compound umbel, rather variable in size; rays 5–7–(9), of unequal length, each with a dense pale green to yellow-green globose or hemispherical spike at tip, 1–2 cm diam. **Spikelets** many, densely crowded, much compressed, ± 5–12 × 3 mm, ovoid-oblong, subacute. **Glumes** many, ± 2 mm long, densely imbricate, ovate, membranous, cells very distinct, whitish-cream to light brown, 1-distinct lateral nerve on each side, keel green, tip slightly recurved. **Stamen** 1. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** ± ½ length of glume, trigonous, obovoid brown (Healy and Edgar, 1980).

Coromandel, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/02/2006, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA
Similar to other *Cyperus* species, distinguished from the other species by the globular yellow-green flowerheads and basal leaves.

FLOWERING
Summer to autumn

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, Yellow

FRUITING
Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE
Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED
1871

ORIGIN
North and South America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Unknown, possibly ornamental plant, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

ETYMOLOGY
cyperus: From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros
eragrostis: From the Greek eros 'love' and agrostis 'grass'

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

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/cyperus-eragrostis/

PDF DATE
17 September 2024