

# Furcraea foetida

## COMMON NAME

Mauritius hemp

## FAMILY

Agavaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Furcraea foetida* (L.) Haw.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial monocotyledon with fleshy leaves up to 3 m tall, in the agave family. The leaves may or may not be spiny. Flower spikes of up to c. 12 m tall are produced from the centre of each plant. Fruit have not been recorded from the plants on Raoul Island (Sykes 1980), but on the flower spikes numerous small bulbils (vegetative dispersal units) are produced. (West 1996)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Does not die after flowering unlike *Agave americana*. *F. foetida* can be distinguished from *F. longaeva* by the entire leaf margins and glabrous branches on flowering spike.

## FLOWERING

October

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## YEAR NATURALISED

1966

## ORIGIN

South America, Brazil

## ETYMOLOGY

**foetida:** Stinking



*Furcraea foetida*. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



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**Reason For Introduction**

Agricultural

**Life Cycle Comments**

Perennial. it is considered to have significantly affect on indigenous communities in the long term, though it can't spread quickly (Ewen Cameron 1996).

**Reproduction**

Spreads vegetatively

**Seed**

Not seen in NZ

**Dispersal**

The bulbils drop off and roll away or land on pohutukawa branches and sprout. (West 1996)

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/furcraea-foetida/>