Imperata cylindrica var. major

**COMMON NAME**
Cogon grass

**FAMILY**
Poaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Imperata cylindrica var. major (Nees) C.E.Hubb.

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Exotic

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Grasses

**CONSERVATION STATUS**
Not applicable

**HABITAT**
Terrestrial open places, sunny places on hills, flats on volcanic soil near coast.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**
Perennial tropical grass forming loose or compact tufts to about 1 m. Colonies establish from long-creeping, tough, scaly rhizomes about 3 mm diameter. Leaves held on upright culm 20–50 cm tall. Leaf-sheath light brown, sometimes purplish, glabrose or with scattered fine hairs above, shredding into stiff fibres at maturity. Leaf-blade to 1 m x 4–10 mm, glabrous with rough margins. Panicle 9–15 x c. 2 cm, a dense silky white spike. Seed not seen in New Zealand.

**SIMILAR TAXA**
I. cylindrica is distinguished from I. cheesmani by the dense flowering spike (cylindrica).

**YEAR NATURALISED**
1911

**ORIGIN**
Tropical/warm temperate Asia, Australia, New Caledonia, Eastern Africa, Lord Howe Island.

**ETYMOLOGY**
cylindrica: From the Latin cylindricus ‘cylindrical, having nearly a true cylindrical form
major: Greater

**Reason For Introduction**
Agricultural

**Life Cycle Comments**

**Reproduction**
Vegetative spread by long branched rhizomes.

**MORE INFORMATION**