



## *Carex comans*

### Common Name(s):

Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Stewart Islands.

### Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine. Usually in free draining soils either in the open or under scrub or tall forest in relatively open sparsely vegetated situations. It often naturalises in urban areas.

### Features\*:

Tufts very dense, very leafy, red, yellow-green, or lime-green. Culms 60-400 mm long, < 1 mm diameter, terete, glabrous, flaccid, occasionally much elongating at maturation of fruit and drooping to the ground; basal sheaths dull brown to purple-black. Leaves usually > culms, 0.5-1.5 mm wide, drooping above, concavo-convex, adaxial surface matt, abaxial surface more deeply coloured and shining, margins scabrid, tips rarely curled. Spikes 4-8, linear-oblong; terminal 1(-2) spikes male, very slender; remaining spikes female occasionally with a few male flowers at the base, 5-25 × 3-4 mm, distant, the uppermost 1-2 sessile, the lower on filiform peduncles, often drooping. Glumes (excluding awn) often slightly < utricles, ovate-lanceolate, usually emarginate to more deeply bifid at the top with a rather short scabrid awn, light brown or reddish brown with a paler midrib, membranous. Utricles 2.5-3.5 × c.1.0 mm, unequally biconvex to ± plano-convex, lanceolate, elliptic-lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, reddish brown, pale straw-coloured at the base, obscurely ribbed on both faces, becoming smooth when fully mature, lateral nerves usually prominent, margins of upper half sharply serrate, narrowed above to a bifid beak c.1 mm long, with slender scabrid crura. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5-2 mm. long, trigonous, ovoid to oblong-ovoid, dark brown.

### Flowering:

Throughout the year

### Fruiting:

Throughout the year

### Threats:

Not Threatened - often naturalised in urban areas

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006).  
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

### References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1403](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1403)



**Caption:** Female spike. In cultivation. Dec 2007.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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