



Zizania latifolia

Common Name(s):

Manchurian rice grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Locally naturalised Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Wellington, abundant on the margins of Northern Wairoa River, Northland.

Habitat:

Lowland still and slow flowing water bodies (both fresh water or moderately saline).

Features*:

Tall marginal perennial. Coarse tufts, 2-4m in height. Stout spreading rhizomes. Leaves light green, up to 1 m or more long and 1-2 cm wide, with a stout midrib, papery, harsh, dull greygreen, taper to point, rustle loudly in wind. The ligule a very dense fringe of hairs. Inflorescences purplish or reddish brown, 20 to 40 cm long, dense and soft to touch. Lower part is spreading and male, the upper part is more closed and with female flowers.

Flowering:

November, December

Fruiting:

Autumn

***Attribution:**

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2657



Caption: Habitat of *Zizania latifolia*. Te Harakiki Swamp, Kapiti Coast. Jul 2007.

Photographer: Robyn Smith



Caption: Section of leaf blade, adaxial side. Jul 2007.

Photographer: Robyn Smith