



Juncus effusus var. *effusus*

Common Name(s):

soft rush

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Widespread and common throughout.

Habitat:

Wet pasture and a wide range of wet habitats, including peaty areas.

Features*:

Dense tuft-forming rush with short rhizomes. Stems 30-120 cm x 1.5-3 mm, cylindrical, bright or yellow-green, softer than most similar spp, easily split or compressed, smooth, shining; with continuous, cobwebby pith. No true leaves, only reddish-brown basal sheaths, closely held to stem. Seedhead not at end of stem, with many tiny green flowers along short, downward-curving branchlets. Seed capsule 2-3 mm long, oval, light brown.

Flowering:

Spring to early summer

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

References and further reading:

Healy, A.J.; Edgar, E. (1980). Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington. 220pp.

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

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

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>

Kirschner, J. (compiler) (2002). Juncaceae 3: *Juncus* subg. *Agathryon*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 8: 1-192.

Healy, A.J. (1982). Identification of weeds and clovers. New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society Publication. Editorial Services Limited, Featherston. 299pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3343



Caption: Lake Waiporohita. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: *Juncus effusus*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth