



Cyperus eragrostis

Common Name(s):

umbrella sedge

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered throughout both islands, locally abundant.

Habitat:

Wet areas such as the banks of rivers and streams, swamps, ditches.

Features*:

Rhizome short, thick, woody. Stems 25-90 cm high, stout, obtusely trigonous, smooth, leafy and \pm thickened at base. Leaves usually $<$ stems, 4-8 mm wide, flat, margins finely serrate; sheaths dark purple-brown. Involucral bracts 5-8, leaf like, unequal, often very much $>$ inflorescence. Inflorescence a compound umbel, rather variable in size; rays 5-7- (9), of unequal length, each with a dense pale green to yellow-green globose or hemispherical spike at tip, 1-2 cm diam. Spikelets many, densely crowded, much compressed, \pm 5-12 \times 3 mm, ovoid-oblong, subacute. Glumes many, \pm 2 mm long, densely imbricate, ovate, membranous, cells very distinct, whitish-cream to light brown, 1-distinct lateral nerve on each side, keel green, tip slightly recurved. Stamen 1. Style-branches 3. Nut \pm $\frac{1}{2}$ length of glume, trigonous, obovoid brown (Healy and Edgar, 1980).

Flowering:

Summer to autumn

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

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.

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication. <http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/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=3796



Caption: Lower Hutt. Jul 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Coromandel, November

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth