



Glyceria maxima

Common Name(s):

floating sweetgrass, reed sweetgrass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Widely naturalised, abundant in most lowland parts of North Island, more scattered and absent from much of South Island.

Habitat:

Aquatic in drains and other slow flowing waterbodies, often forming dense floating mats in open frost-free areas. Also in swamps.

Features*:

A perennial aquatic grass, to 1.8 m tall. It has an extensive root system up to c. 1 m deep, as well as sprawling underground stems. The leaves are shiny, hairless and mid-green in colour. They grow 30-60 cm above the water surface and are 0.7-2 cm wide. Leaves end in an abrupt point and their edges are rough to touch. The flower head is open, branched, and 15-45 cm long comprising a large number of spikelets that range from yellow to green in colour, with a purplish tinge. Flowering occurs in spring and summer. Small dark brown seeds are produced prolifically throughout summer and autumn.

Flowering:

Spring/summer.

Fruiting:

late spring-autumn

***Attribution:**

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-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

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

Champion et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common grasses, sedges and rushes of New Zealand. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 182pp.

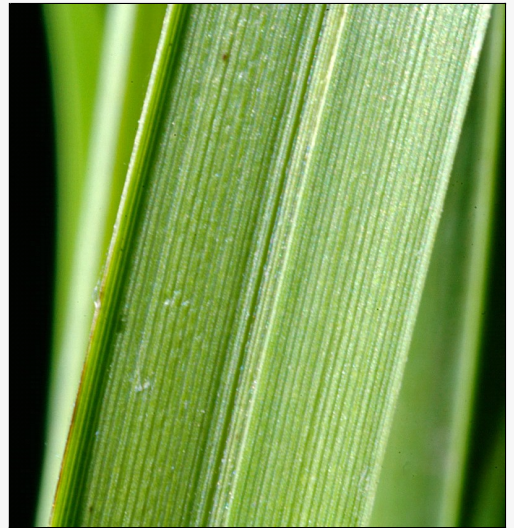
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4005



Caption: Base of leaf blade. Foxton Loop. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Lower surface of leaf blade. Foxton Loop. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle