



Cyperus papyrus

Common Name(s):

Papyrus

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Mostly northern North Island, usually close to habitation, but occasionally in remote sites.

Habitat:

Emergent in still and slow flowing water bodies.

Features*:

Erect perennial sedge to 2.5 (4) m tall with triangular stems up to 4 cm across arising from short thick woody rhizomes. Leaves reduced to papery brown basal sheaths. Inflorescence terminal subtended by 4-10 deciduous sheath-like bracts 7-15 cm x 1 cm. Inflorescence compound often with >100 filamentous branches 10-25 cm x 1 mm, often sterile. Fertile spikes are 3-5 spikes with 20-30 spikelets, each 3-20 flowered. Viable seed production not known from New Zealand.

Flowering:

Summer

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

Sainty, G.R.; Jacobs, S.W.L. (1981). Waterplants of New South Wales. Water Resources Commission NSW. 550pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4349



Caption: *Cyperus papyrus*
Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)



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