

# Avena fatua

## COMMON NAME

wild oat

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Avena fatua* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

AVEFAT

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Root system extensive and fibrous. Stems smooth, stout, 0.3–1.2 m high. Leaves 7.5–20cm long, resembling those of tame oats. Spikelets distinguished by long dark awns, the lower part twisted, the upper parts bent sharply at right angles to twisted parts. (Wax, Fawcett, Isley eds. 1981).

## LIFE CYCLE

Reproduces by seed. Seeds vary from white to yellow, brown, grey, or black; are usually hairy, especially near base.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1872

## ORIGIN

Eurasia and N. Africa

## ETYMOLOGY

**avena:** Ancient Latin name for oats.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Wax LM, Fawcett RS, Isley D, eds. 1981. Weeds of the North Central States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agriculture, Illinois, USA. 303 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/avena-fatua/>



Rotorua. Dec 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Spikelets. Wanganui. Jan 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.