

Bromus catharticus

COMMON NAME

prairie grass

SYNONYMS

Bromus willdenowii, *Bromus unioloides*

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Bromus catharticus Vahl

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

BROCAT

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread in New Zealand, cultivated and adventive

HABITAT

Pasture, road verges, waste areas, wetland edges

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust tufted grass with densely pubescent sheaths; compressed glabrous spikelets with awns to 3 mm long; can be invasive in natural ecosystems (e.g., in grasslands, wetland margins, dunes).

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Bromus* species, but prairie grass is more robust than any other common species except *B. inermis*, which has glabrous or near-glabrous stem sheaths and very short or absent awns on the spikelets.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Seed

ETYMOLOGY

bromus: From the ancient Greek word bromos, referring to a kind of oat

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bromus-catharticus/>



leaf base, sheath, collar and ligule; Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 21/04/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Spikelet; Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 21/04/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.