

Calamagrostis epigejos

COMMON NAME

wood small-reed, bushgrass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Calamagrostis epigejos (L.) Roth

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

CALEPI

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Robust, tall plant (50–200 cm) grass arising from stout rhizomes; stem (culm) bases with adventitious roots; leaves to 10 mm wide, flat with strong ribs, rough, glabrous. Inflorescences (panicles) dense, yellowish-brown when seed is ripe, 15–30 cm long. One flower per spikelet; seeds with long straight hairs from base of lemmas. Appears to be late flowering in NZ—seed heads not seen until March–April.

DISTRIBUTION

Collected on Raoul Island (1944) but not seen there in recent years; one mainland NZ site (first collected 1992, still present 2017), near Palmerston North.

HABITAT

Near Palmerston North among ungrazed rank grasses on road edge.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

ETYMOLOGY

calamagrostis: After Kalamos, a Greek mythical figure who was turned into a reed, and agrostis, a Greek word for 'grass' from agrotēs 'of the field'.

epigejos: From the Greek prefix epi- 'upon' and ge 'earth'. Refers to a terrestrial habitat in contrast to related species growing in swamps.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calamagrostis-epigejos/>



Milson Line, Palmerston North; road edge.
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken:
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Inflorescence; ex-Milson Line, Palmerston
North; road edge. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle,
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