

Carex longebrachiata

COMMON NAME

Australian sedge

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex longebrachiata Boeckeler

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARLON

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grasslands

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, harsh, dense tussocks 30–90 cm high. New leaves grow from the inside of leaf-sheath. **Leaves** 3–5 mm wide, strongly keeled, Y-shaped in cross-section, appearing yellowish towards ends. **Seeding stem** a drooping panicle; with green to pale brown seeds hanging at the ends of long, thin, cotton-like filaments.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from almost all other species of *Carex* in NZ by its tillering and distinctive flower/seed head, but shares these characters with the Australian *C. iynx*. Flowers are grouped in catkin like spikes and hang at the end of long thin nodding stalks.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by tillers and seed. The plant seeds prolifically, with longevity of viable seed being between 3–5 years. The seed is dispersed by gravity and livestock. The seed is relatively heavy and most falls within 30 cm from the edge of the plant's canopy.

YEAR NATURALISED

1906

ORIGIN

Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

TOLERANCES

Tolerant to low soil fertility and drought.

ETYMOLOGY

carex: Latin name for a species of sedge, now applied to the whole group.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-longebrachiata/>



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