

# Carex lurida

## COMMON NAME

sallow sedge

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Carex lurida Wahlenb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Grass-like bright green, clump-forming plant, up to 90 cm tall, with large green spiky catkins (up to 4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide).

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and locally common in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Tasman and Westland.

## HABITAT

Lowland swamps, roadside drains.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense clumps up to 90 cm tall. **Stems** stout, erect, 3-angled, smooth or slightly scabrid on angles below inflorescence. **Leaves** 5–8 mm wide,  $\pm$  = stems, flat, many small internal septa noticeable when dry; sheaths red to almost black. **Inflorescence** of large approximate spikes each with long leaf-like bract. **Male spike** 1, 5–6 cm  $\times$  2 mm, peduncle short; glumes narrow with long scabrid awns. **Female spikes** usually 3, upper sessile, rest shortly pedunculate, 2–4  $\times$   $\pm$  1.5 cm, glumes much < utricles except at base of spike, narrow, hyaline, with an extremely long awn. **Utricles** 6–9  $\times$  2–4 mm, strongly inflated, distinctly nerved, shining, smooth, greenish-brown, beak very narrow, bifid, c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of utricle. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** trigonous, obovate, style strongly curved above base.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to the native *Carex maorica*, differing in the more yellow-green foliage, longer and narrower (up to 6  $\times$  1 cm) female spikes with shorter beaks. The leaf-like bracts on the flowering spikes help identify *Carex lurida*.

## FLOWERING

Late spring to early summer

## FLOWER COLOURS

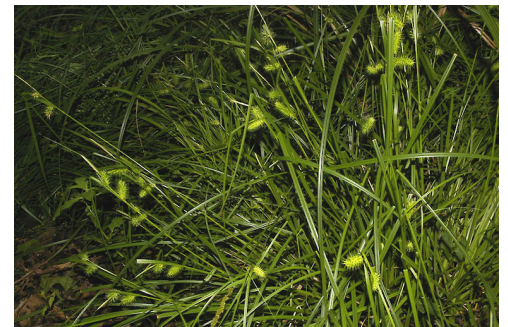
Green

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn



In cultivation. Dec 1986. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Carex lurida, Howarth wetland, Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery or waterfowl.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1945

## ORIGIN

North America

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication.

<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

Healy AJ, Edgar E. 1980. Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 220 p.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

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