

# Cyperus eragrostis

## COMMON NAME

umbrella sedge

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cyperus eragrostis* Lam.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CYPERA

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tufted leafy sedge, with triangular stems up to 90 cm tall, leaves arranged in threes, with a group of 5 to 7 green round flowerheads, each made up of broad flattened flower spikes, with 5 to 8 long grass-like leaves immediately under this, at the end of flower stalk.

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered throughout both islands, locally abundant.

## HABITAT

Wet areas such as the banks of rivers and streams, swamps, ditches.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** short, thick, woody. **Stems** 25–90 cm high, stout, obtusely trigonous, smooth, leafy and  $\pm$  thickened at base. **Leaves** usually  $<$  stems, 4–8 mm wide, flat, margins finely serrate; sheaths dark purple-brown.

**Involucral** bracts 5–8, leaf like, unequal, often very much  $>$  inflorescence.

**Inflorescence** a compound umbel, rather variable in size; rays 5–7–(9), of unequal length, each with a dense pale green to yellow-green globose or hemispherical spike at tip, 1–2 cm diam. **Spikelets** many, densely crowded, much compressed,  $\pm$  5–12  $\times$  3 mm, ovoid-oblong, subacute.

**Glumes** many,  $\pm$  2 mm long, densely imbricate, ovate, membranous, cells very distinct, whitish-cream to light brown, 1-distinct lateral nerve on each side, keel green, tip slightly recurved. **Stamen** 1. **Style-branches** 3.

**Nut**  $\pm$   $\frac{1}{2}$  length of glume, trigonous, obovoid brown (Healy and Edgar, 1980).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other *Cyperus* species, distinguished from the other species by the globular yellow-green flowerheads and basal leaves.

## FLOWERING

Summer to autumn



Coromandel, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/02/2006, Licence: CC BY.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1871

## ORIGIN

North and South America

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, possibly ornamental plant, seed or soil contaminant.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

## ETYMOLOGY

**cyperus:** From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros

**eragrostis:** From the Greek eros 'love' and agrostis 'grass'

## ATTRIBUTION

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/cyperus-eragrostis/>